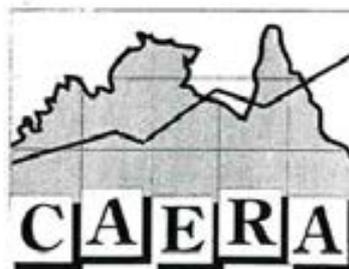




**LAND USE PROGRAM**

**POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS  
OF  
CAPE YORK PENINSULA**

Dr David King



CYPLUS is a joint initiative of the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments

**CAPE YORK PENINSULA LAND USE STRATEGY  
(CYPLUS)**

**Land Use Program**

**POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS  
OF  
CAPE YORK PENINSULA**

**Dr David King**

**Centre for Applied Economic Research and Analysis  
James Cook University**

**CYPLUS is a joint initiative of the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments**

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Note:

Due to the timing of publication, reports on other CYPLUS projects may not be fully cited in the BIBLIOGRAPHY section. However, they should be able to be located by author, agency or subject.

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# CAPE YORK PENINSULA LAND USE STRATEGY STAGE I

## PREFACE TO PROJECT REPORTS

Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy (CYPLUS) is an initiative to provide a basis for public participation in planning for the ecologically sustainable development of Cape York Peninsula. It is jointly funded by the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments and is being carried out in three stages:

- Stage I - information gathering;
- Stage II - development of principles, policies and processes; and
- Stage III - implementation and review.

The project dealt with in this report is a part of Stage I of CYPLUS. The main components of Stage I of CYPLUS consist of two data collection programs, the development of a Geographic Information System (GIS) and the establishment of processes for public participation.

The data collection and collation work was conducted within two broad programs, the Natural Resources Analysis Program (NRAP) and the Land Use Program (LUP). The project reported on here forms part of one of these programs.

The objectives of NRAP were to collect and interpret base data on the natural resources of Cape York Peninsula to provide input to:

- evaluation of the potential of those resources for a range of activities related to the use and management of land in line with economic, environmental and social values; and
- formulation of the land use policies, principles and processes of CYPLUS.

Projects examining both physical and biological resources were included in NRAP together with Geographic Information System (GIS) projects. NRAP projects are listed in the following Table.

| Physical Resource/GIS Projects                              | Biological Resource Projects                         |
|---|--|
| Bedrock geological data - digitising and integration (NR05) | Vegetation mapping (NR01)                            |
| Airborne geophysical survey (NR15)                          | Marine plant (seagrass/mangrove) distribution (NR06) |
| Coastal environment geoscience survey (NR14)                | Insect fauna survey (NR17)                           |
| Mineral resource inventory (NR04)                           | Fish fauna survey (NR10)                             |
| Water resource investigation (groundwater) (NR16)           | Terrestrial vertebrate fauna survey (NR03)           |
| Regolith terrain mapping (NR12)                             | Wetland fauna survey (NR09)                          |

| Physical Resource/GIS Projects                     | Biological Resource Projects                            |
|--|---|
| Land resource inventory (NR02)                     | Flora data and modelling (NR18)                         |
| Environmental region analysis (NR11)               | Fauna distribution modelling (NR19)                     |
| CYPLUS data into NRIC database FINDAR (NR20)       | Golden-shouldered parrot conservation management (NR21) |
| Queensland GIS development and maintenance (NR08)* |   |
| GIS creation/maintenance (NR07)*                   |   |

\* These projects are accumulating and storing all Stage I data that is submitted in GIS compatible formats.

Research priorities for the LUP were set through the public participation process with the objectives of:

- collecting information on a wide range of social, cultural, economic and environmental issues relevant to Cape York Peninsula; and
- highlighting interactions between people, land (resource use) and nature sectors.

Projects were undertaken within these sector areas and are listed in the following Table.

| People Projects                       | Land Projects                                   | Nature Projects                              |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Population                            | Current land use                                | Surface water resources                      |
| Transport services and infrastructure | Land tenure                                     | Fire   |
| Values, needs and aspirations         | Indigenous management of land and sea           | Feral and pest animals                       |
| Services and infrastructure           | Pastoral industry                               | Weeds  |
| Economic assessment                   | Primary industries (non-pastoral, non-forestry) | Land degradation and soil erosion            |
| Secondary and tertiary industries     | Forest resources                                | Conservation and natural heritage assessment |
| Traditional activities                | Commercial and non commercial fisheries         | Conservation and National Park management    |
| Current administrative structures     | Mineral resource potential and mining industry  |  |
|                                       | Tourism industry                                |  |

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are extremely grateful to the very large number of people who assisted us, gave up their time and provided information. A lot of people talked to us on a completely casual basis, so that some people's names were not recorded. The following spoke to us in their official capacities.

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Michelle Lasen organised and participated in the fieldwork and established an extensive range of contacts and informants.

John Lowry participated in the fieldwork and set up the arcinfo database.

Stephen Thacker participated in the fieldwork.

Antonia Seremelis produced the early part of the database and initial maps.

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## SUMMARY OF MAIN FINDINGS OF THE POPULATION OF CAPE YORK PENINSULA

- Many aspects of the population and its characteristics on Cape York Peninsula are not known. There is a need for more and better data collection for accurate planning.
- Census boundaries are too small to show urban areas and communities at the regional level. The Australian Bureau of Statistics' Statistical Local Areas are the only basis for comparative census data, but they do not coincide with the CYPLUS region.
- Population and economic characteristics, and land use and environmental features are largely not related. Consequently maps of human and physical features were difficult to integrate in the Geographic Information System(GIS).
- There was a significant undercount in the 1991 census. This seems to have been primarily of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island population.
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island population comprises at least 60% of the population, but not more than two thirds.
- The resident population in 1994 was between 17,605 and 18,024 persons.
- There may be up to a further 2,000 floating visitors from other communities and from outside Cape York Peninsula. These are staying with relatives. The figure may be closer to 1,000, but is highly seasonal.
- Return migration is occurring amongst the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island population.
- Return migration is not really part of the outstation movement. Outstations on Cape York Peninsula are very small.
- Overall there is a high rate of net in migration. Government population projections err on the low side, based on continuing net out migration.
- Demographic rates for 1993 indicate a crude birth rate of 18.1 per 1000, a crude death rate of 8.6 per 1000, a natural increase of 0.95% a year, and an average age at death of 49 years.
- The growth rate of the Cape York Peninsula population until 2001 is projected at an average of 3% a year.
- The population is youthful, with an age structure more like that of a developing country than the overall Australian pattern.
- There is a significant shortfall in school attendance. Only 80% of 5 to 14 year olds are attending school.
- A high proportion of the population is not technically or professionally qualified.
- The population is income poor; 42% of individuals aged 15 or over earn less than \$12,000 a year. With a mean household size of 4.3 persons, about 17% of households are probably below or at the poverty line.
- Single parent families comprise 20% of the families. Only 36% are conventional nuclear families.
- 72% of houses are rented.
- There are high levels of overcrowding in housing, with many large families.
- Over 25% of households consist of families of 5 or more people living in houses with 3 or fewer bedrooms.
- The economy of Cape York Peninsula is dominated by welfare, the Community Development Employment Project Scheme (CDEP) and community projects, and mining. Agriculture employs very few people. A mean of only 4.6 persons live and work on each cattle property.
- Spatial patterns of the population show a high concentration into urban types of settlements and communities.
- There is a distinct racial separation of the population between communities.
- Visitors have been rapidly increasing in number since 1990.

- There were about 2,000 tourists on Cape York Peninsula on census night in August 1991.
- Visitors decrease in numbers from Cooktown to Weipa, and from mid Cape York Peninsula to the top of Cape York Peninsula. Thus no single visitor estimate is representative of the whole of the peninsula.
- A rough estimate for the early 1990s is of about 32,000 visitors a year, staying longest in the south. Both Heathlands and the Jardine Ferry, separately estimated, recorded about 27,500 visitors a year in 1993 and 1990 respectively.
- The population is highly mobile, but basically community to community. Use of the environment is recreational rather than formally traditional.
- Many cultural, social, sporting and religious events result in large movements of people between communities for short durations.

## 1. THE POPULATION DATABASE

In preparing this population profile of Cape York Peninsula a database and three progress reports were produced. The source data for all of this work came from a variety of organisations, government bodies and individuals, both on the Peninsula and elsewhere in North Queensland. Sources are referenced and acknowledgments made to all of those individuals and organisations that gave time and assistance. The bulk of the data comes from the 1991 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census. This is available in a tabular form for each Collection District, Statistical Local Area and larger statistical divisions as CProfile, accessed on computer, and in a sophisticated mapping and data package Cdata. Cdata was the main source of information for the census, but at the time of carrying out this study, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island community profiles had only been produced in Cprofile, not Cdata. The expanded community profiles are only available at the Statistical Local Area (SLA) level, as are the time series comparisons between the 1981, 1986 and 1991 censuses. Furthermore these had only been produced in Cprofile at the time of the study. These limitations resulted in additional work and slower progress.

### 1.1 Database and Progress Reports

Three Progress Reports were produced. They contain some additional data that is not reproduced here. These are available at the CYPLUS Taskforce Library in Cairns as reference materials.

Progress Report Number 1. This contains a discussion of census and boundary limitations, a series of population distribution maps produced in Mapinfo from Cdata, and an extensive series of tables that contain the printout of the main database. Each table lists the 38 Collection Districts separately by an ABS community identification number for a total of 404 population variables. (Refer to Figure 13 -16 for location of identification numbers)

Progress Report Number 2. This contains a basic list of the groups of the 404 population variables, to assist in interpretation of the abbreviated column headings in the database printout. There is also a note about the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Census and Survey, and the North Queensland Community Needs Survey. Both of these were submitted to the CYPLUS Taskforce with this progress report for general use. Both data sets were in a printed form, but the Needs Survey also came in an excel database format that was included with the whole dataset. This was not really a part of the population survey. Reports also presented the preliminary results of the fieldwork community count and a discussion of population increase and mobility of the population. Tables included a listing of Collection Districts with community names and base Collection District maps of all parts of Cape York Peninsula.

Progress Report Number 3. This report discussed the community identification (id) numbers and presented the basic summary tables of the 1991 census. Tables included an additional 76 age and sex variables (as the original had only selected totals for main age cohorts, rather than every single age by sex). The database printout of all communities, properties, the id numbers and populations was included along with a series of maps identifying the place names and id number locations for the whole of Cape York Peninsula.

The database was submitted in compressed form on one 3.5 floppy disk. This contains all of the variables itemised by Collection District in a dbase arcinfo format. The variables are the original 404, plus the additional 76 age and sex variables, 60 further variables of visitors

by age, sex and proportion, giving a total of 540 population variables. Theoretically each of these columns can be made into a separate distribution map. Only a small selection are presented as illustrations in this report. With the dbase is a text file explaining all of the column headings for interpretation. Two base maps are included. One is a completely re-digitised ABS Collection District map of Cape York Peninsula. The original ABS map was too crudely drawn to overlay the existing CYPLUS base map. The second map is the CYPLUS property boundary base map, with all community locations added, and all places identified. The final part of the database is the community count for all identified communities and properties.

## **1.2 The Community Count and Place Locations**

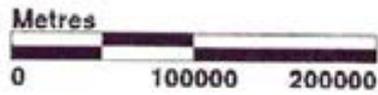
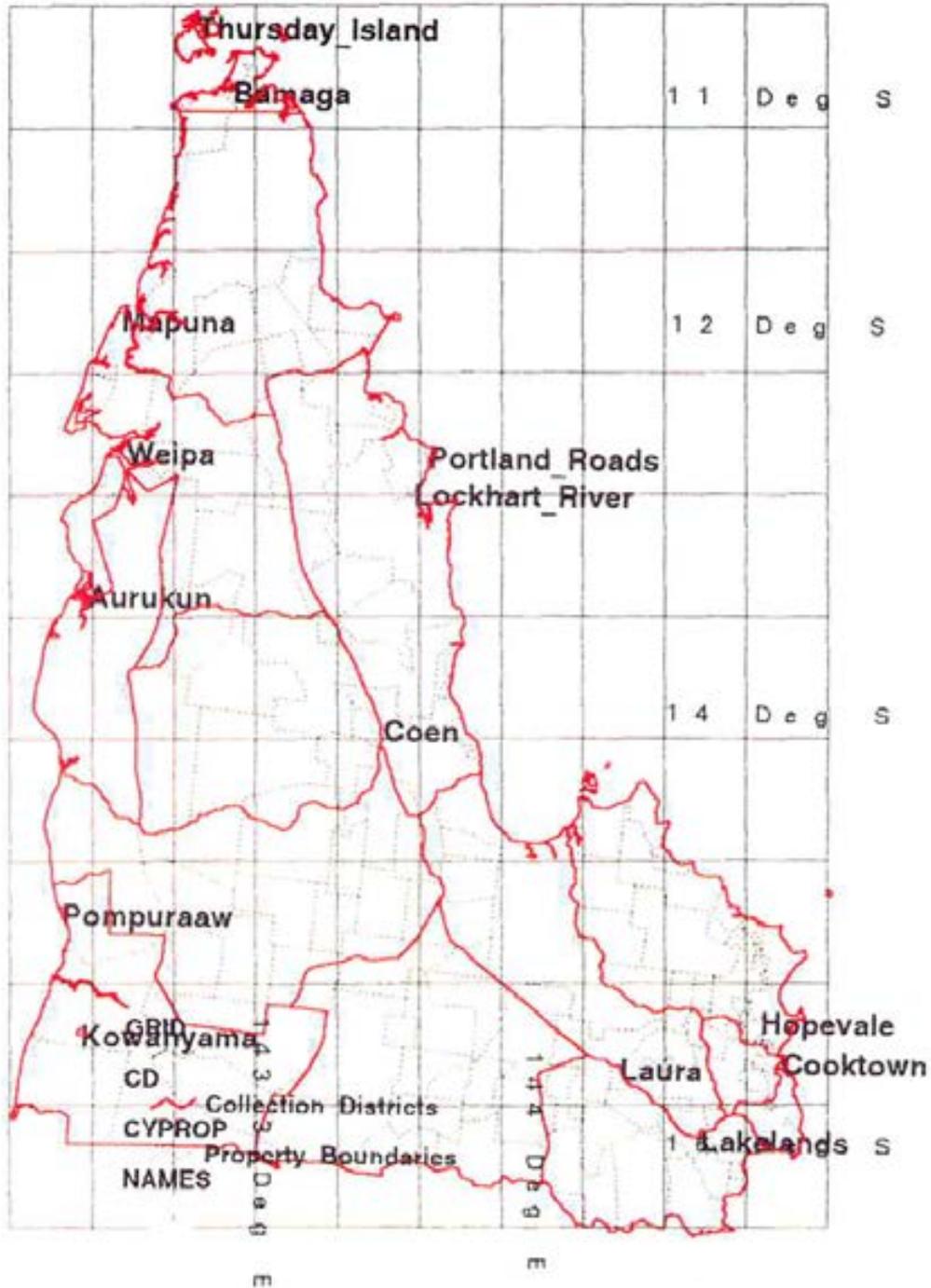
The community count was carried out during a three week field trip to most of the places on Cape York Peninsula. Population estimates and demographic data were gathered from councils, community workers, non government organisations and government departments. These data are discussed in the next section. The location of the places is shown in figures 1 to 11. Id numbers on these maps were created by the CYPLUS GIS team, although a few places without numbers were identified by us, and new numbers created. Figure 1 is the overall base map, with figures 2 to 7 the close up identification of communities. Figures 8 to 11 name each of the communities.

# Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy

## CYPLUS

Figure 1. **Main Communities on Cape York**

Figure 1 is a part of the Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy (CYPLUS) prepared by the Centre for Applied Environmental Research and Analysis (CAERA), James Cook University, Townsville, August 1999.

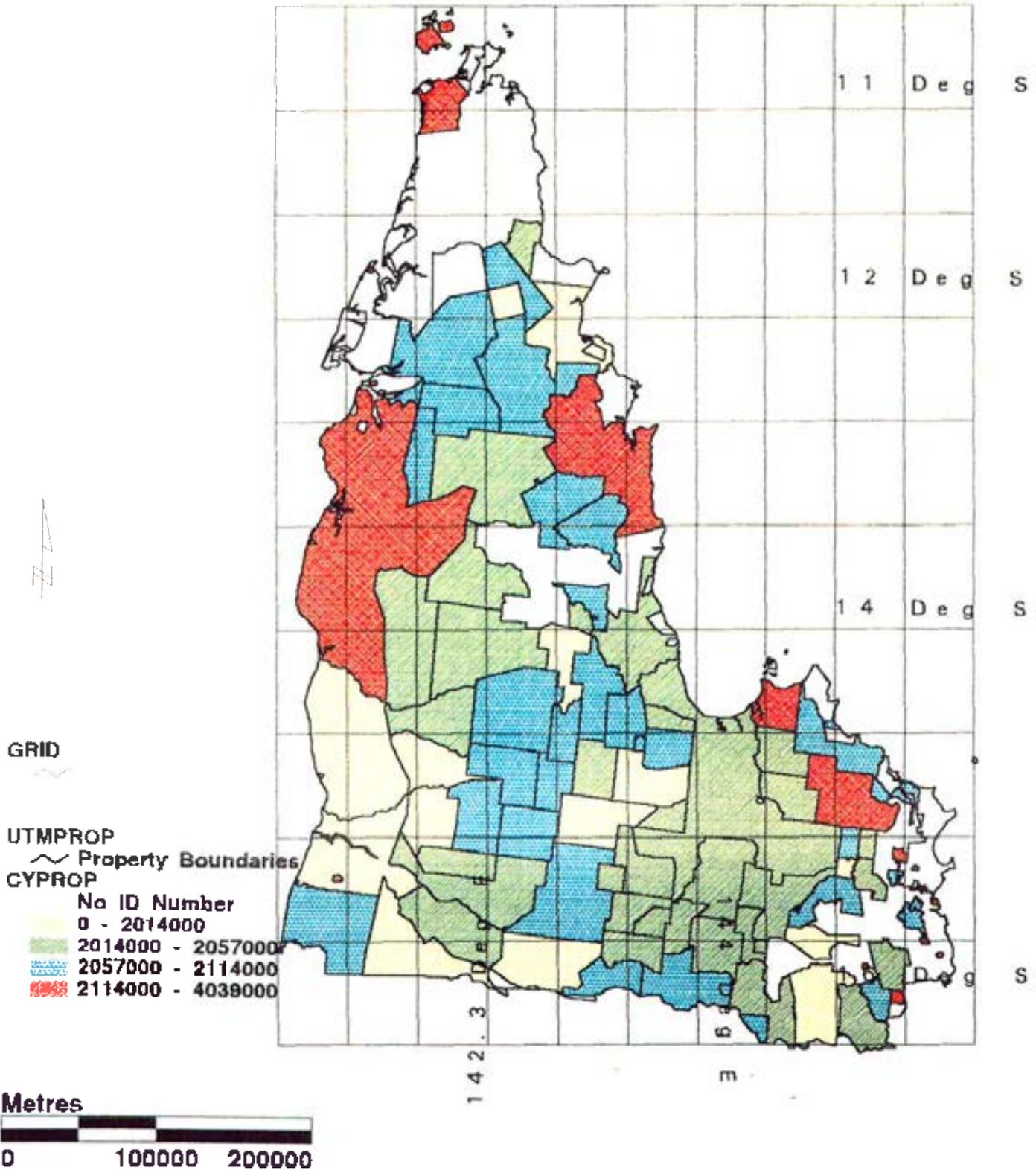


# Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy

## CYPLUS

Figure 2. ID Numbers of Communities and Properties

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Prepared and published by QPWS on behalf of the Queensland Government, Research and Analysis Centre (QAC).



# Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy

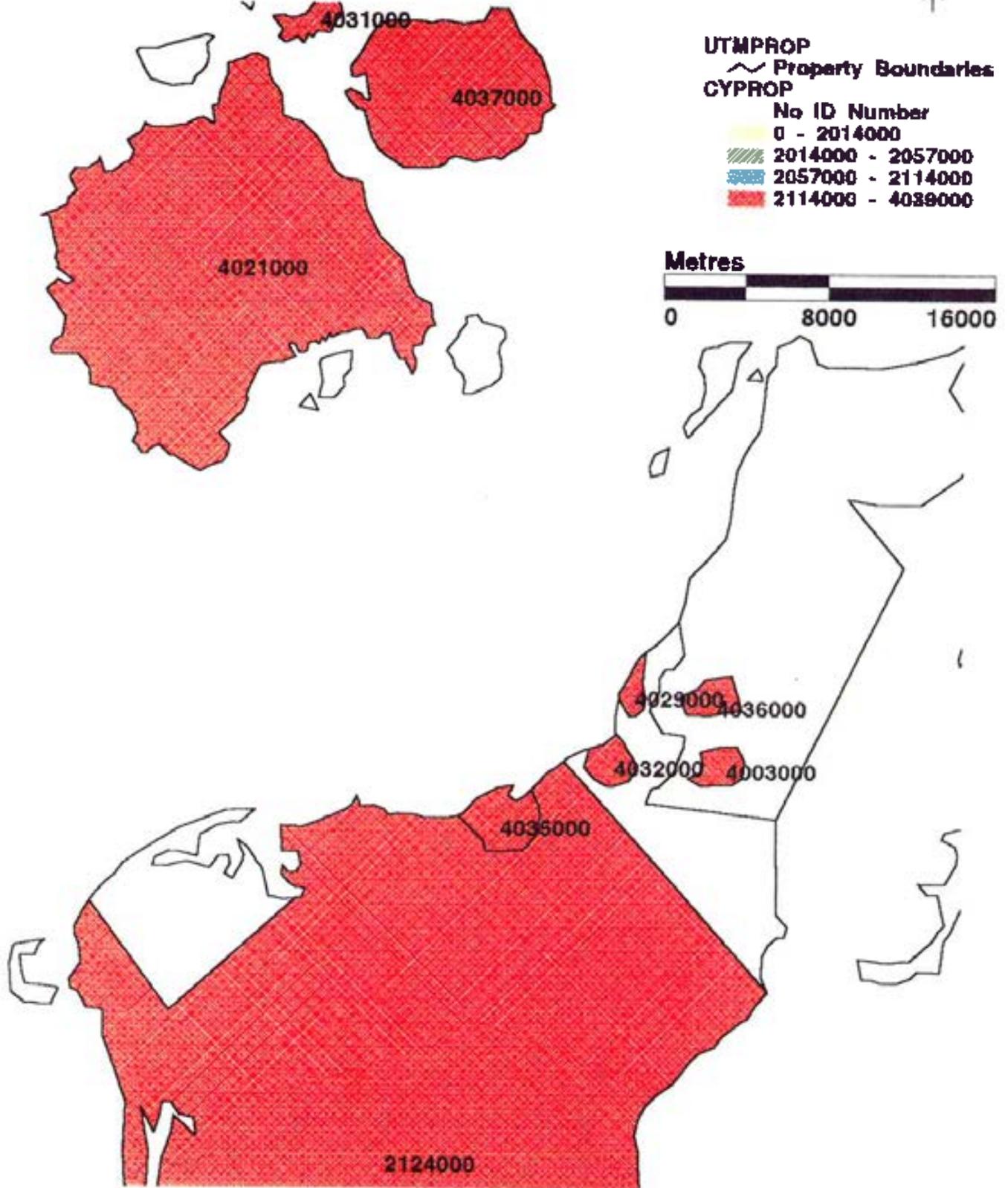
## CYPLUS

### Figure 3. ID Numbers of Communities and Properties : The Torres Strait

*CYPLUS is a suite of maps of the Queensland and Commonwealth territories.*

**EDITOR :**

*Projects are published on CYPLUS by the Council for applied Research, Planning and a policy (CRPAP).*



# Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy

## CYPLUS

Figure 4. ID Numbers of Communities and Properties : Weipa - Coen

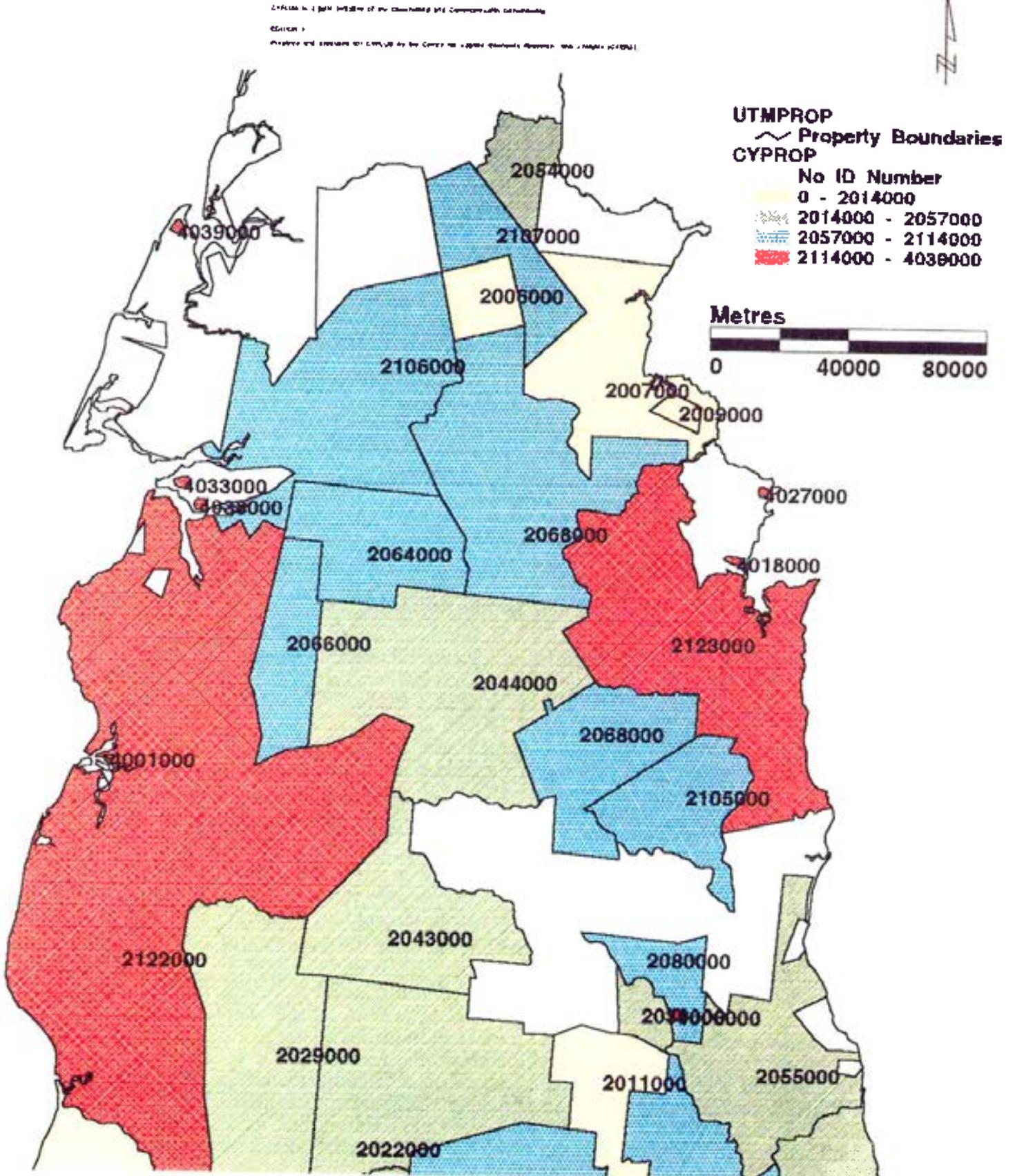


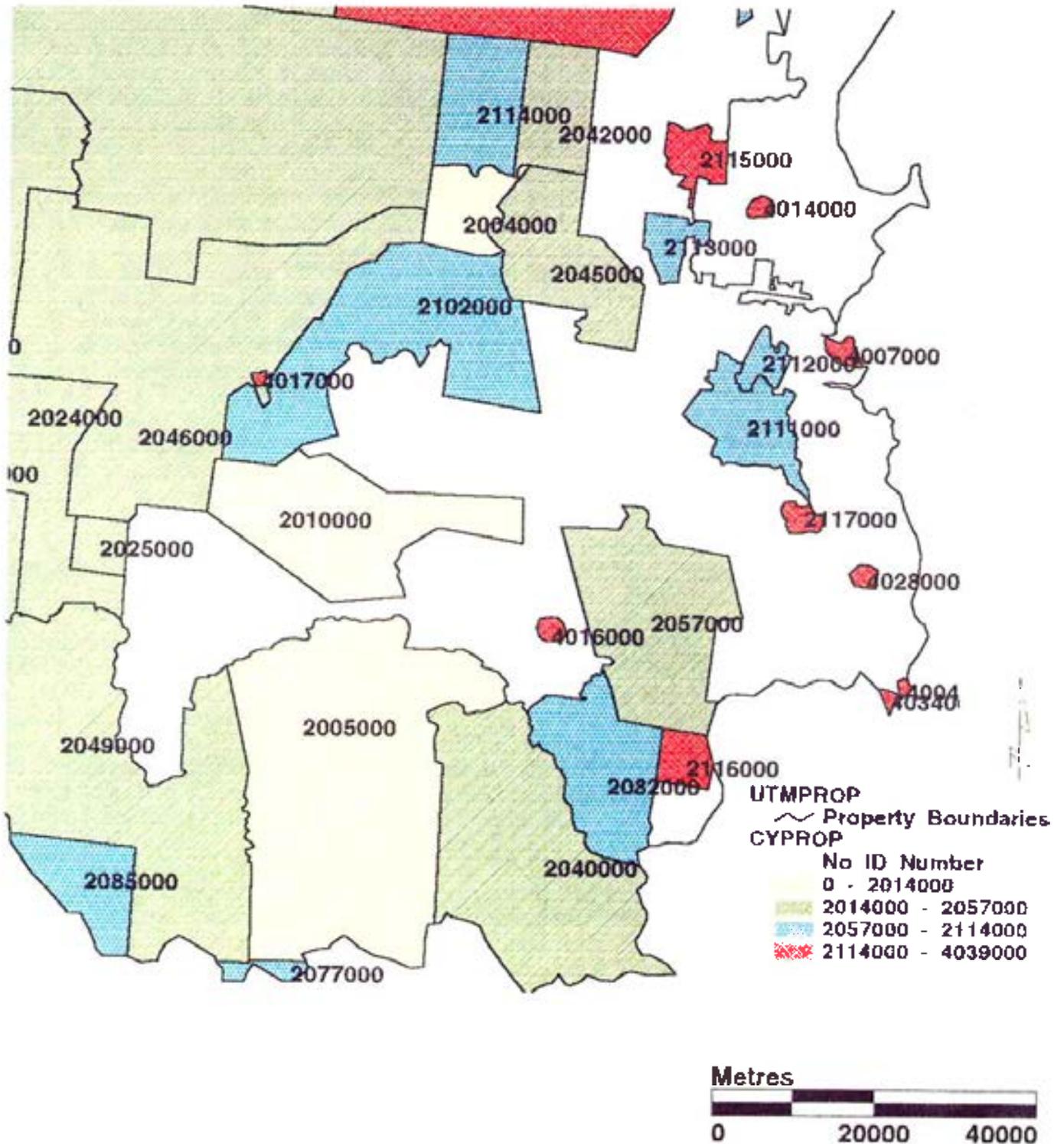
Figure 5.

Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy

CYPLUS

ID Numbers of Communities and Properties : Hopevale - Cooktown - Lakeland - Wujul Wujul

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 © 2004  
 Prepared and published in accordance with the Cape York Coastal Economic Research and Strategy Report.



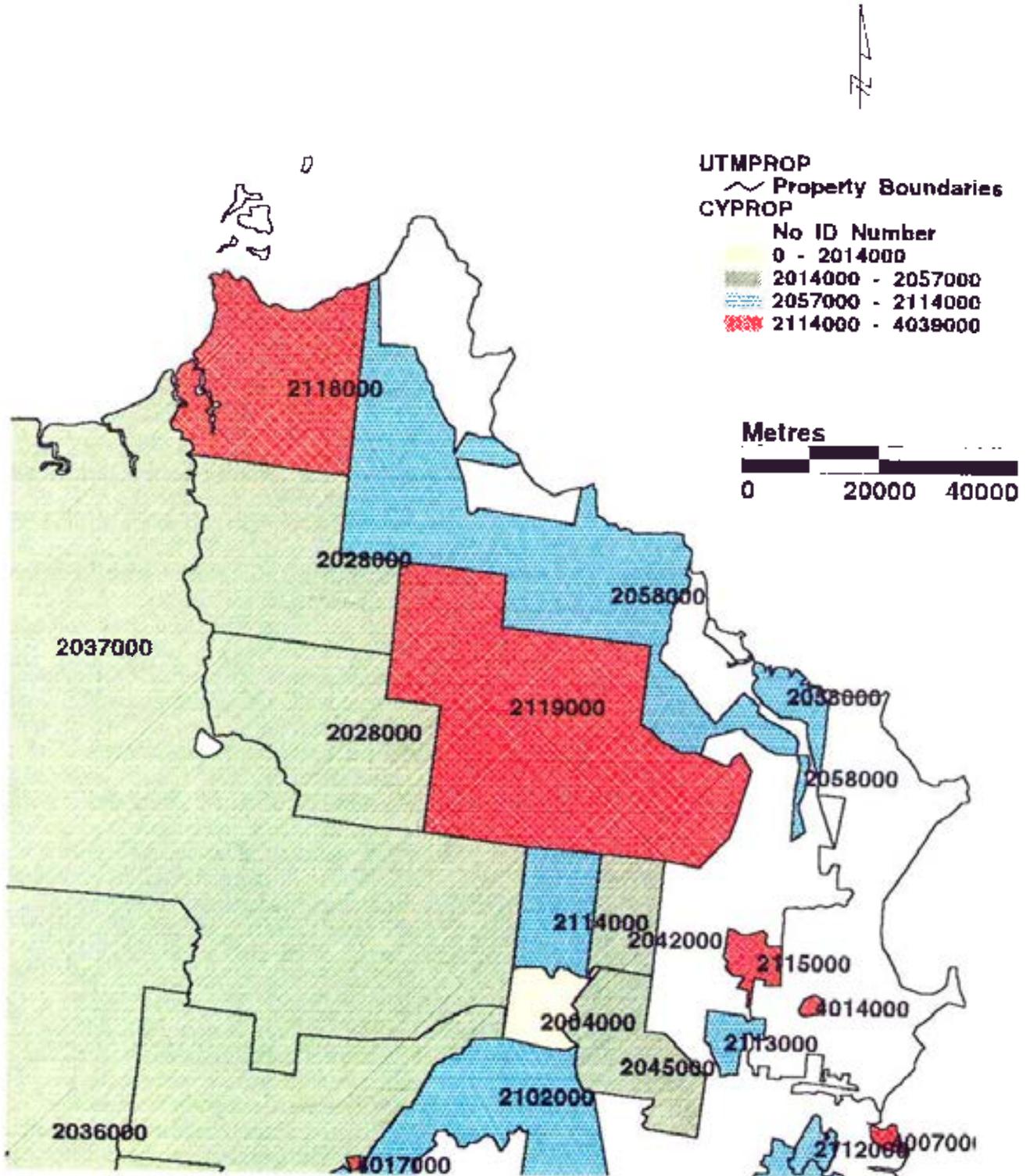
# Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy

Figure 6.

## CYPLUS

### ID Numbers of Communities and Properties : Hopevale - Cooktown

CYPLUS is a joint initiative of the Department of Environment and Heritage and the Department of Infrastructure.  
Prepared for the Department of Environment and Heritage by the Centre for Applied Geomatics Research and Analysis (CARGA).



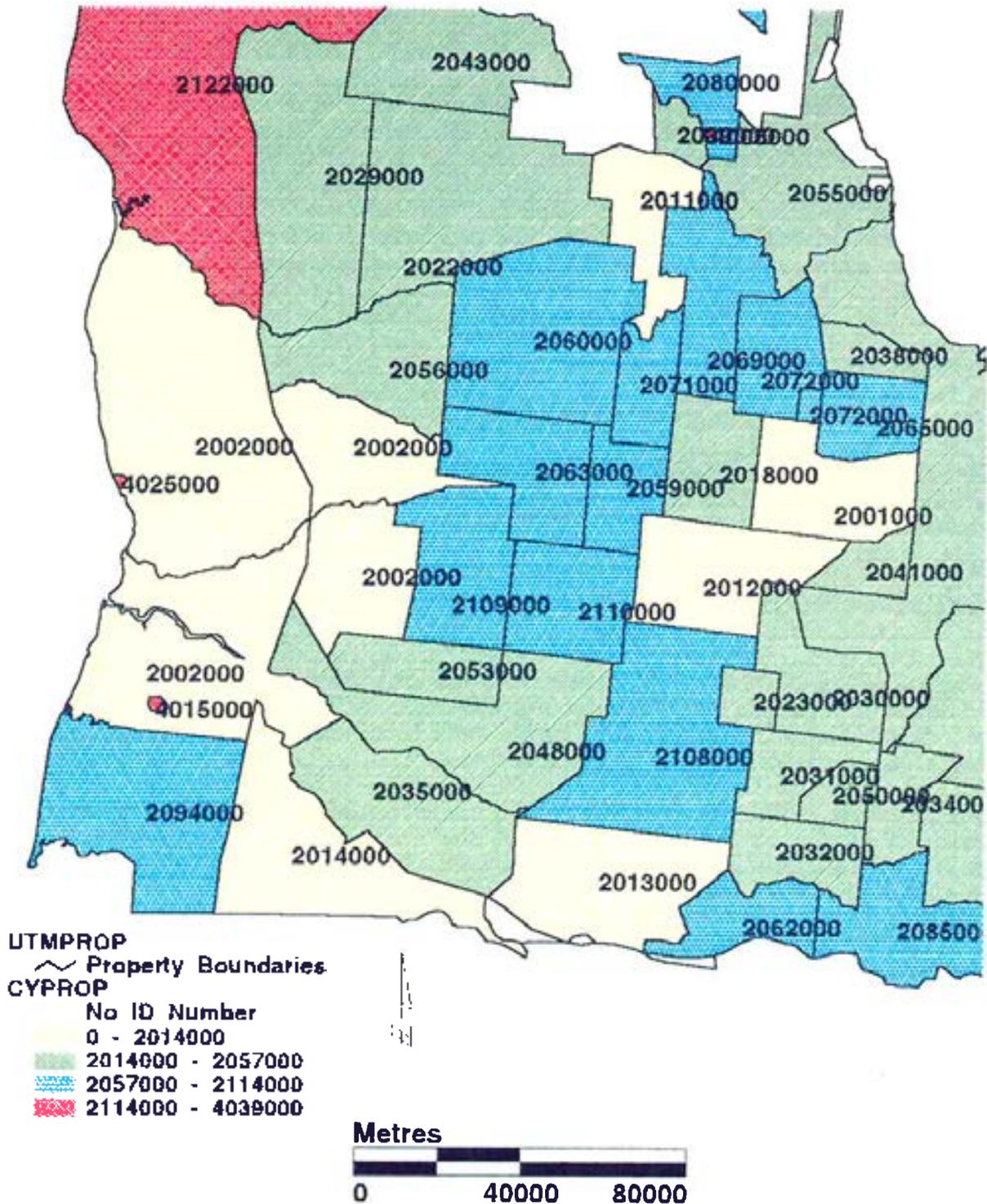
### Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy

Figure 7.

### CYPLUS

### ID Numbers of Communities and Properties : Pompuraaw - Kowanyama - Laura

CYPLUS is a joint initiative of the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments.  
Edition 1  
Prepared and published by CYPUS for the Centre for Applied Economic Research, 2002 (May 2002)



# Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy

Figure 8.

## CYPLUS

### Main Communities : Bamaga and the Torres Strait

This is a part of the of the District and Community boundaries

CD (CYPLUS)

Map of the Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy

Map of the Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy

Map of the Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy

CD Collection Districts  
CYPLUS

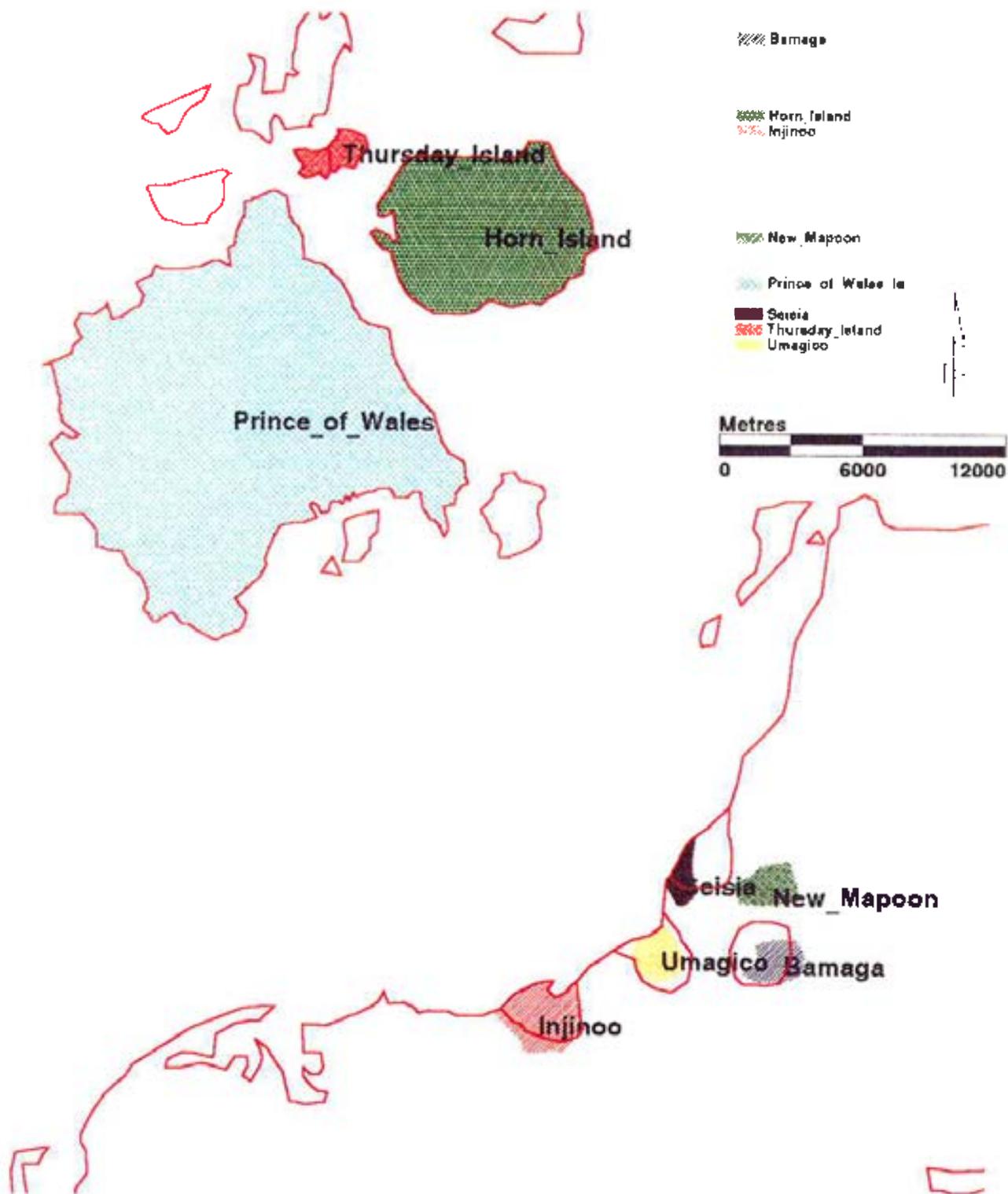
Bamaga

Horn Island  
Injinoo

New Mapoon

Prince of Wales Is

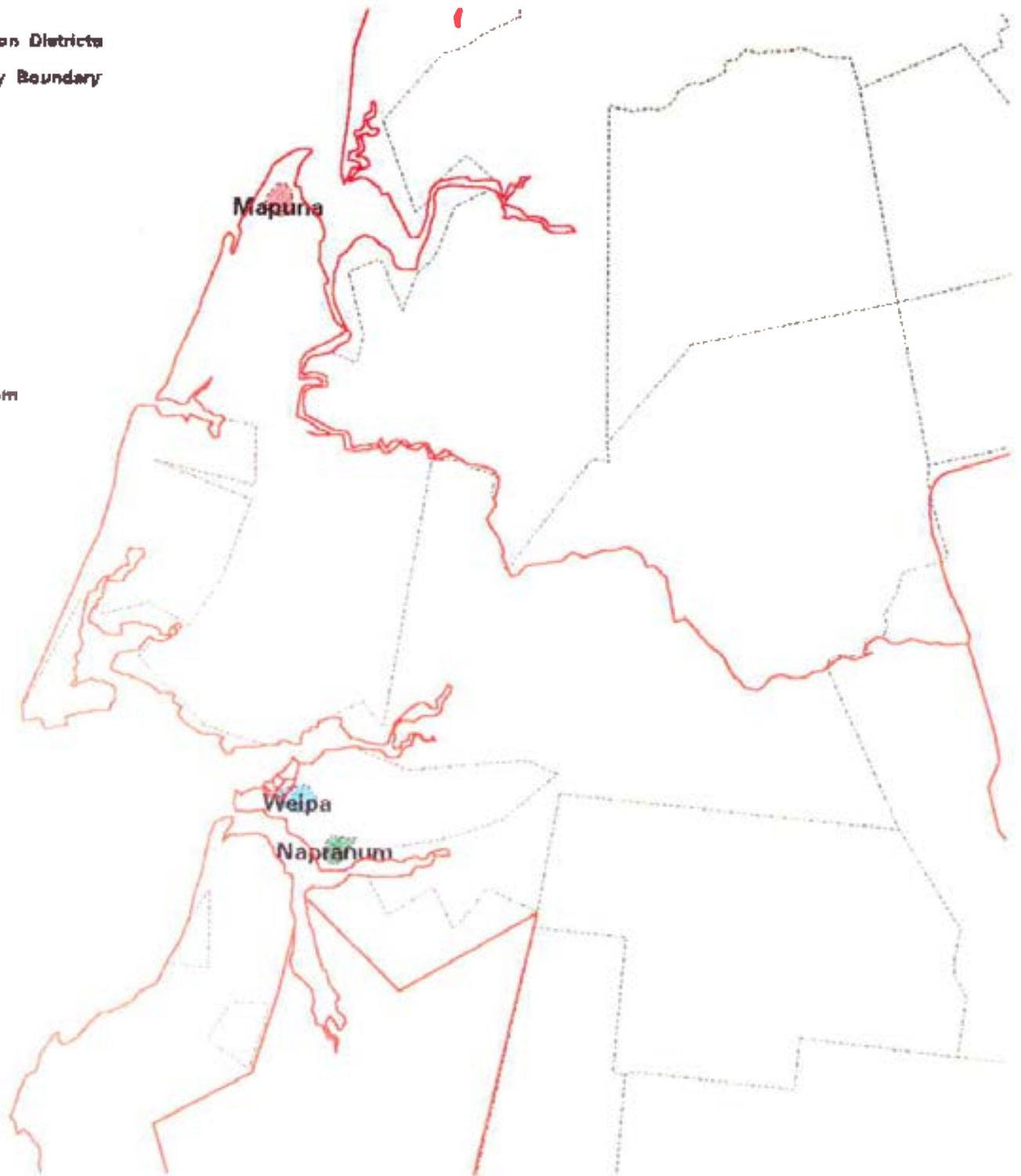
Seisia  
Thursday Island  
Umagico



YCD4  
 ~ Collection Districts  
 ROP1  
 - - - Property Boundary  
 YPROP

Mapuna  
 Napranum

Weipa



**Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy**

**CYPLUS**

**Communities on Cape York : Weipa, Napranum and Mapuna**

CYPLUS is a part of the Cape York Peninsula and Communities Development Strategy.

Mapuna :

Mapuna was included in CYPLUS by the Council to support community development and economic growth.

Mapuna Local Government Form 10, August 2004

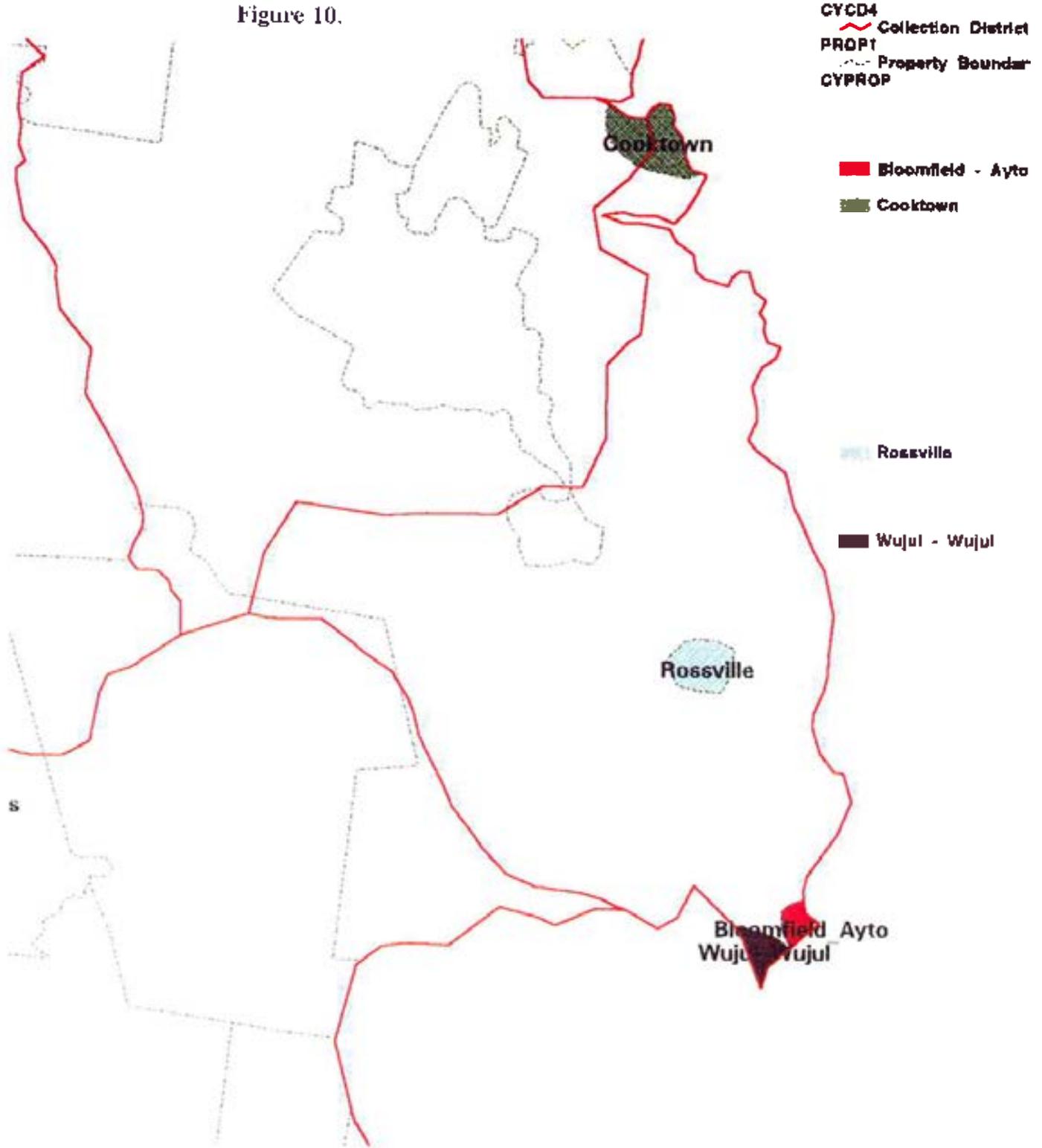
2011/2012 Council Year

metres



20000 40000

Figure 10.



### Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy

### CYPLUS

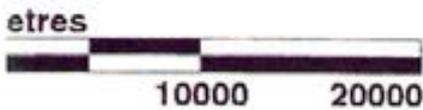
### Communities on Cape York : Cooktown, Rossville and Wujul-Wujul

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2014/15

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James Cook University Townsville, August 2014

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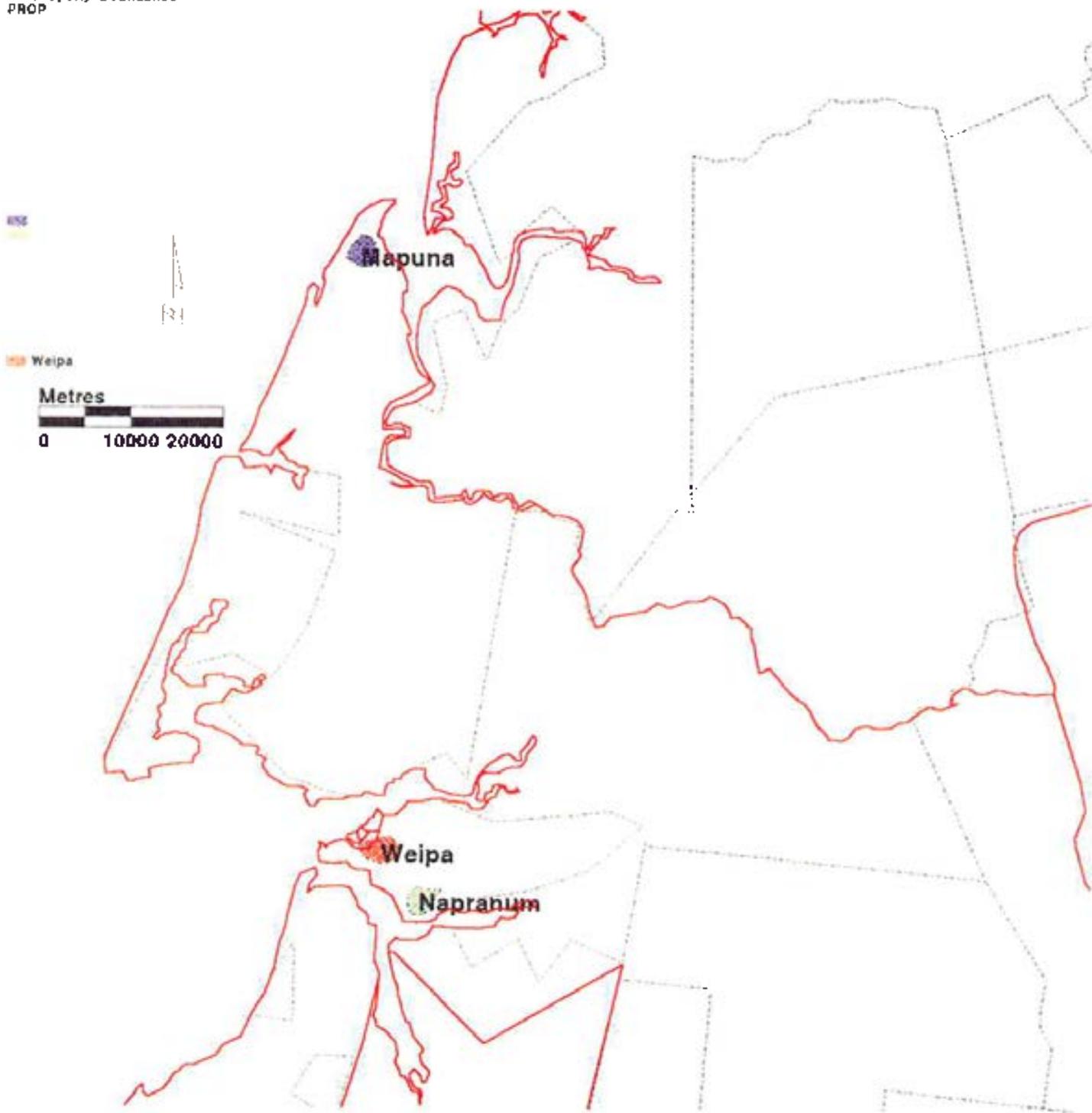
# Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy

## CYPLUS

Figure 11. **Main Communities : Weipa, Napranum and Mapuna**

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Last revised: 1/2010

Collection Districts  
OPI  
Property Boundaries  
PROP



### 1.3 The 1991 ABS Census, Collection Districts and Statistical Local Areas

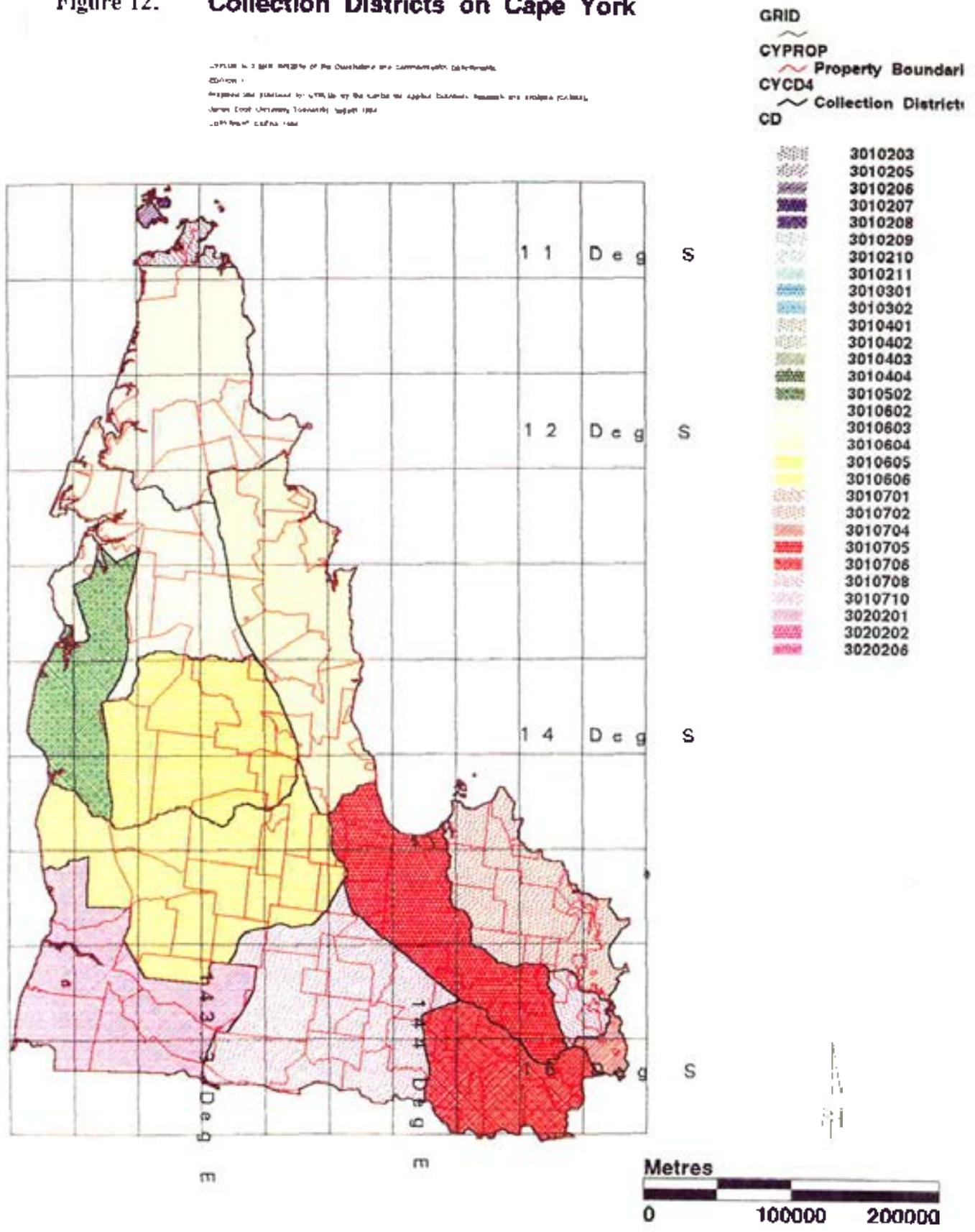
Figure 12 superimposes ABS Collection Districts over the property/community map. The ABS Collection District numbers are identified by colour code. Their numbers were also indicated in progress report number 2, and are identifiable from the database. Figures 13 to 17 identify the Collection District numbers of small units.

All of these maps illustrate the problems of mapping human activities and characteristics at the scale of the whole region. Most of the people and therefore, most social and economic activities occur in tiny communities that are too small to identify, at the scale of the whole region. In fact this scale problem underscores the general problem of relating all of the variables that are being studied by the Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy. People are concentrated in central places, living basically sub-urban lifestyles. The GIS, therefore, is not going to be able to make useful correlations, layers or composites of people and the environment in most of the important characteristics and relationships. Most people, especially the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island population, are located where they are partly because of political decisions, rather than for environmental or land use reasons.

# Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy

## CYPLUS

Figure 12. Collection Districts on Cape York

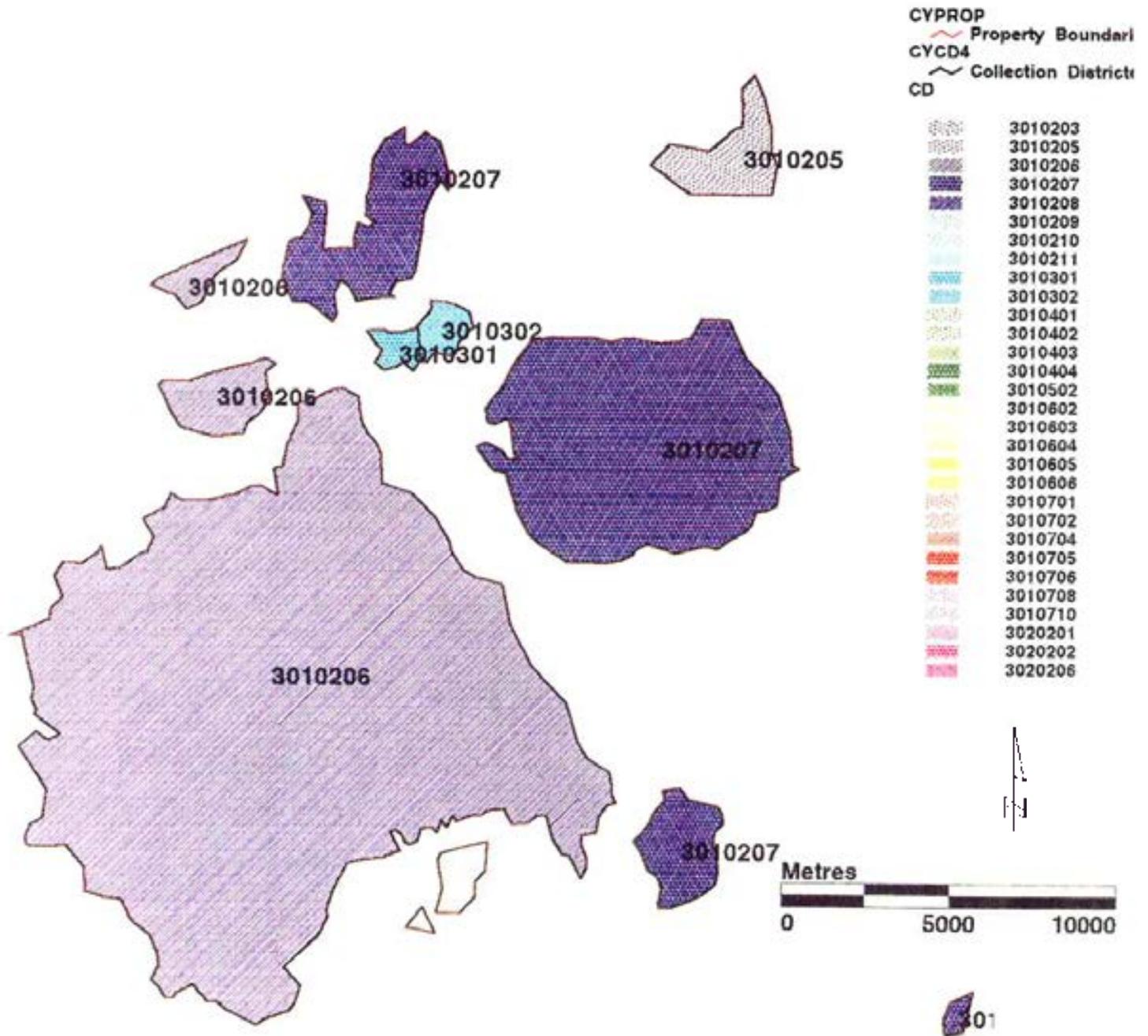


# Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy

## CYPLUS

### Figure 13. Collection Districts on Torres Strait Islands

CYPLUS is a joint initiative of the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments.  
 Edition 1  
 Prepared and produced by: CYPLUS by the Centre for Habitat, Economic Research and Analysis (CHERA),  
 JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY Townsville August 1994  
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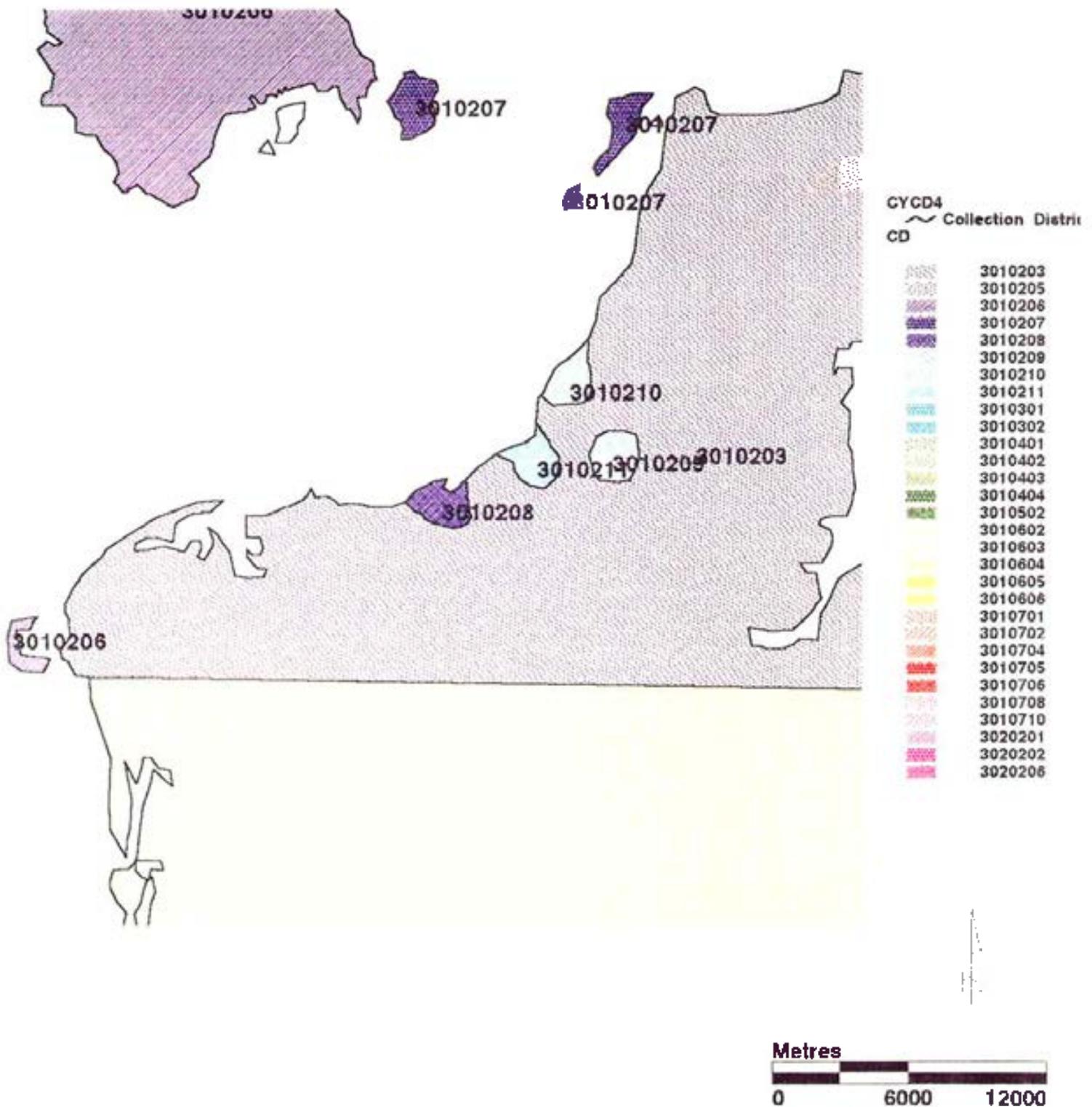
Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy

Figure 14.

CYPLUS

Collection Districts : Bamaga and Surrounding Communities

CYPLUS is a GIS product of the Cape York and Communities Development  
 (CYCD) Unit  
 Prepared and presented for CYPLUS by the Centre for Applied Geomatics Research and Analysis (CARGA)  
 James Cook University Townsville August 1994  
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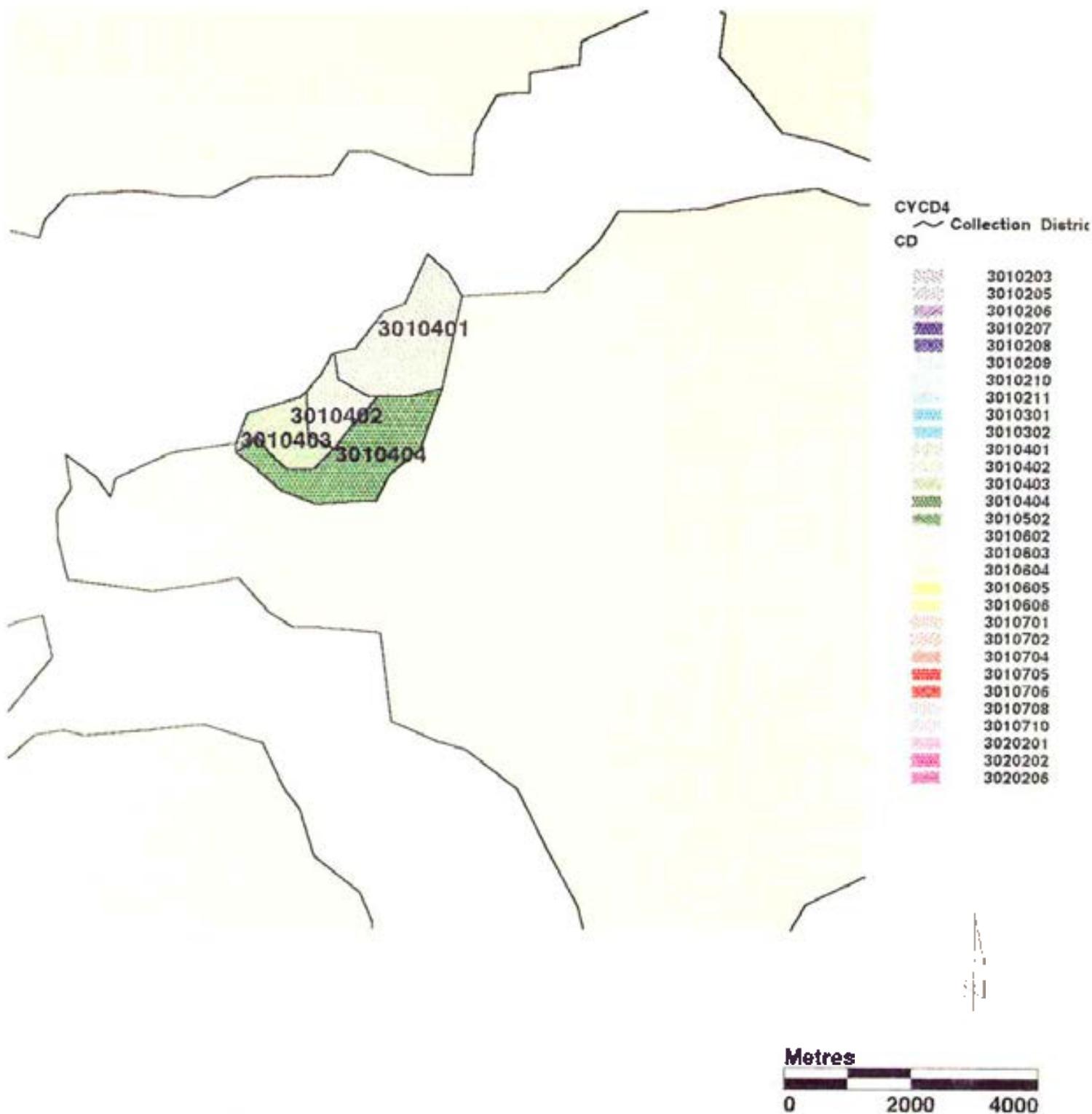
# Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy

## CYPLUS

Figure 15.

### Collection Districts : The Weipa Peninsula

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 James Cook University Townsville August 2012  
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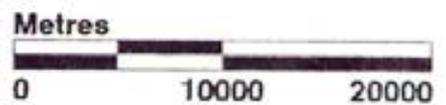
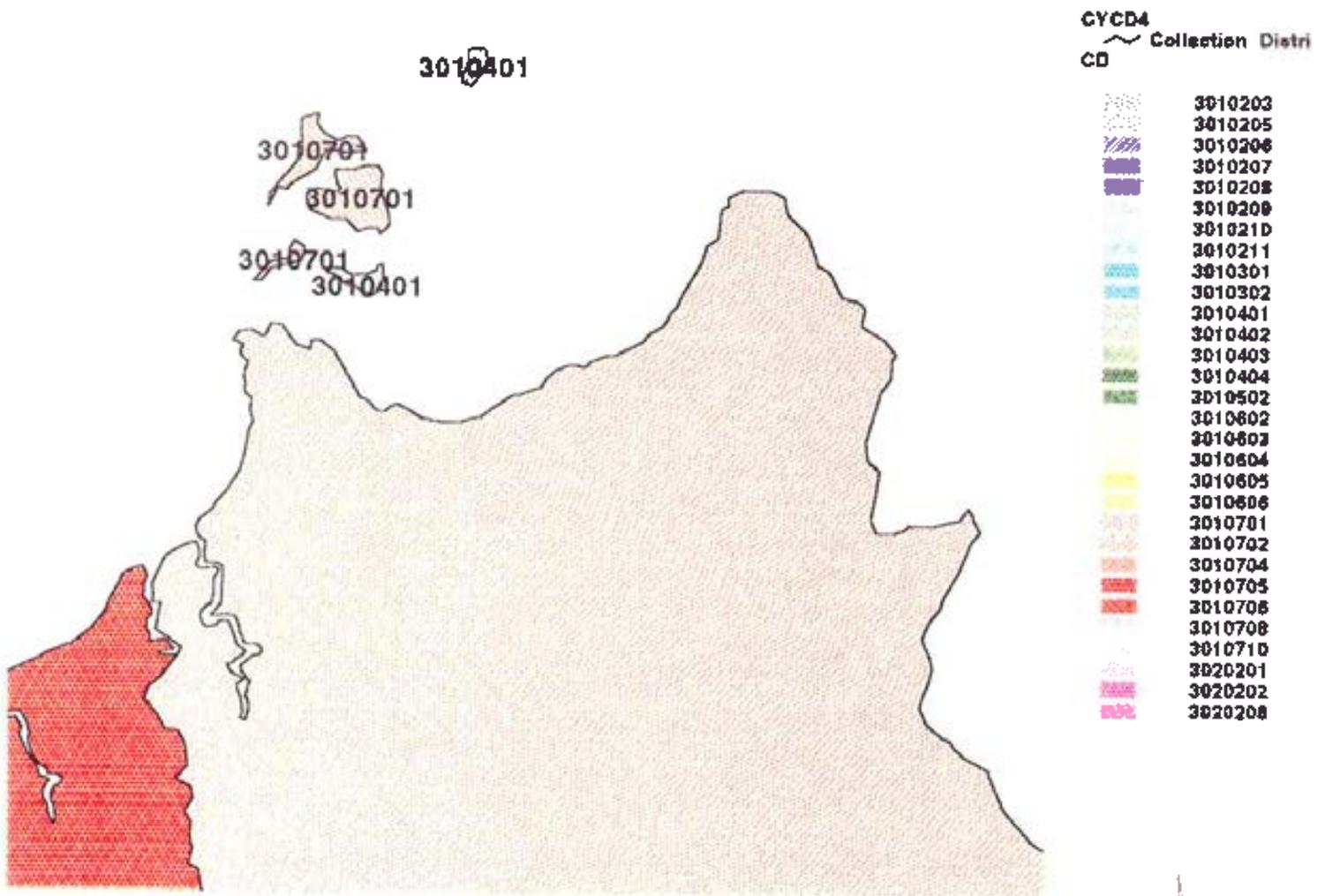
Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy

CYPLUS

Figure 16.

Collection Districts : Flinders Islands Group

CYPLUS is a joint initiative of the Department of Environment and Heritage and the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.  
 Prepared and updated for CYPLUS by the Centre for Applied Geographic Research and Analysis (CAGRA), James Cook University, Townsville, August 2004.  
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## 2. THE POPULATION OF CAPE YORK PENINSULA

### 2.1 Community Populations

The total population of the 38 Collection Districts in 1991 was 16,743 with a marked excess of males to females of 120 males per 100 females. Only 84.5% of the population was counted at home; a population of 14,146. A further 443 were visitors from the same Statistical Local Area (SLA) so that these are Cape York Peninsula residents, making the Cape York Peninsula resident population a basic 14,589.

Another 1,276 were from other SLAs in Queensland. Some of these can be assumed to be Cape York Peninsula residents from other Cape York Peninsula SLAs while some can also be expected to be relatives of Cape York Peninsula residents, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people from places like Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns.

However, high proportions of tourists are likely to be from Queensland. While the census recorded 2,154 visitors, estimates from various sources and dates suggest that the number of tourists could be at least this number (see later section on visitors). Thus there may either have been an undercount of tourists (quite likely) or an undercount of visitors to Cape York Peninsula residents (also very likely).

From estimates of visitor numbers, the minimum number of tourists that may be expected to be temporarily resident in conventional sites where the census could be reasonably expected to have been carried out, could be 2,100 tourists present on Cape York Peninsula on census night in August 1991. However, an estimate from Cooktown Chamber of Commerce of 1,200 persons per night in the peak tourist season that spans August, seems excessive. The total number of tourists could have been much less in which case related visitors may be better represented in the census total.

So the basic census figures start off by suggesting that there may have been an undercount of both residents and visitors. The July 1994 fieldwork estimates of population re-enforce the notion that there may have been a census undercount. The ABS time series data enables us to calculate mean population increase between the 1981, 1986 and 1991 censuses. Unfortunately, this is only categorised at the SLA level (which is the same as the Local Government Areas - LGA, in rural Queensland), so that areas outside the CYPLUS region are included, specifically other Torres Strait Islands in Torres Shire and a large section of Carpentaria. In the basic five SLAs that cover Cape York Peninsula, the population increased from 16,843 in 1981 to 21,606 by 1991. This is an average population growth of 2.8% a year, including visitors (discussion of growth rates follows in greater detail in a later section). If such a growth rate was applied to the resident 14,589 living in the 38 Collection Districts of the CYPLUS area one would expect there to be 15,814 by mid 1994. This is a very crude projection (further analysis of projections is also dealt with in more detail later), but it serves to illustrate the shortfall in the census, as the community count carried out in July 1994 has over 2,000 more residents.

The community count was carried out by visiting each place on Cape York Peninsula to ask for the latest population figure or an estimate of the population. Only Injinoo Council had carried out a formal census, but had misplaced it anyway. Informants were council chairpersons, councillors, public servants and employees in private enterprises, all resident in these communities. Cattle stations were contacted by phone with all but eight providing numbers of residents. A number of unidentified stations are listed in table 1. These were not

on the Cattlemen's Association list of properties, but were identified on the CYPLUS base map. All of these are assumed to be part of other contiguous stations. Thus almost all places on Cape York Peninsula are listed with estimates of their populations. Table 1 shows the rounded populations of communities, their outstations, the resident population of the cattle stations and their temporary population. This table is part of the database.

Table 1. Community Count of Population, Cape York Peninsula 1994

| Place                  | Population    | Outstations | Number on CDEP* | Council Houses |
|------------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Wujal Wujal            | 390 - 450     | 6 - 8       | 210             |                |
| Bloomfield/Ayton       | 324 - 384     |             |                 |                |
| Rossville              | 180           | 20          |                 |                |
| Cooktown               | 1500          |             |                 |                |
| Hopevale               | 950 - 1000    |             |                 |                |
| Laura                  | 90 - 100      |             | 28 - 29         |                |
| Coen                   | 280           | 50 - 85     | 92              |                |
| Lockhart River         | 450           | 20          | 150             |                |
| Chillie Beach          | 20            |             |                 |                |
| Portland Roads         | 20            |             |                 |                |
| Umagico                | 250           |             | 95              | 29             |
| Injinoo                | 500           |             | 220             | 50             |
| Bamaga                 | 1200          |             | 144             | 142            |
| Seisia                 | 119 - 120     |             | 47 - 50         | 18             |
| New Mapoon             | 250           |             | 84              | 48             |
| Thursday Island        | 3500          |             |                 | 135            |
| Horn Island            | 600           |             |                 | 7              |
| Prince of Wales Island | 150           |             |                 |                |
| Weipa                  | 2400 - 2500   |             |                 | 750            |
| Napranum               | 900 - 1000    | 80          | 400             | 240            |
| Mapuna                 | 150           |             | 50 - 60         | 4              |
| Aurukun                | 1000          |             | 400 - 450       | 148            |
| Pormpuraaw             | 425           | 13          |                 | 106            |
| Kowanyama              | 1000          | 12          |                 | 100            |
| Lakelands              | 66            |             |                 |                |
| Cattle Properties      | 690           |             |                 |                |
| Total                  | 17,404-17,785 | 201 - 238   |                 |                |

Source: Fieldwork 1994

\*Community Development Employment Project Scheme

Adding all of the figures together, the towns, outstations and cattle properties give a resident 1994 population of 17,605 to 18,023, a variation between estimates of 2.4%. This represents what all communities and informants believed to be the usually resident population of Cape York Peninsula. On top of this figure are tourists and the floating population of visitors and relatives.

Informants were neither able nor willing to estimate their floating populations as people are always coming and going. It was commonly asserted by informants that houses were very overcrowded. For most places it was not possible to get a complete figure of numbers of houses, although this could be done quite easily by carrying out a basic house count of each community. The numbers of houses in Aurukun, Mapuna, Napranum, New Mapoon, Seisia, Injinoo and Umagico, as well as Weipa, are total numbers that relate directly to those communities. Thus Weipa's mean per house of 3.3 persons is very close to the Australian mean. For the other communities the mean occupancy of 6.1 suggests the larger families and dual family occupancy that was alluded to by informants. This occupancy rate is probably without including visitors.

The problem in estimating the total population lies in knowing whether or not the floating population is actually included. Very short term visitors are probably not, but individuals who visit for a medium term period (weeks to months) can and do very easily transfer their CDEP (Community Development Employment Project Scheme)/welfare entitlements. The CDEP figures were very accurately known in each community, although these cannot be used as a guide to total population because of considerable variation in participation (especially female).

Including visitors the 1991 census recorded 2,995 families or 3,370 households amongst 16,743 persons. As 51.2% of the population consisted of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people then there are likely to be around that proportion of families in each race. It can probably be assumed that the 671 lone person households were probably mostly non-indigenous. If the non-indigenous population is assumed to have the same household size as that of Weipa, they would constitute 2,282 of the 3,370 households. This would leave only 1,088 households amongst the 8,576 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island population, a mean of 7.9 per household.

While very approximate even these potentially undercounted figures suggest that the mean household size is most likely above 6 persons per household amongst the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island community, and closer to 8. This sort of figure seems logical if it accounts for a couple of additional floating relatives in a household that is already likely to be overcrowded. A common situation is of the older parents sharing their house with an offspring and his/her family. This arises from the housing shortage in most communities, and makes nuclear family households difficult to achieve.

The point of this is that there is very likely an additional floating population of about two persons per household that can be added to the grand total of the community count. I realise, after the fieldwork, that a very valuable statistic that we did not gather was the number of households in each community. This, after all, is the real basis of all service, infrastructure and needs assessments. Despite these problems it is reasonable to estimate that there may be up to 2,000 additional people who are not included in the basic community counts.

According to informants these are temporary visitors, not usually included in the CDEP numbers, who come from other communities on the Peninsula, the islands, Cairns,

inclusion here is in estimating the total population.

Relatively little direct comparison is possible for most of the census Collection Districts and the community count. However, some places are the same so that comparisons of different population estimates may be made. A few of these are recorded in table 2.

Table 2. Comparison of Population Estimates.

| Place               | 1994 max count includes outstation | 1991 ABS census | 1986 annual report | Taylor 1990 | Council estimates 1990 | Service pop 1991 | Elector based pop |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Wujal Wujal         | 458                                | 292             | 252                |             | 400                    | 354              | 371               |
| Bloomfield/ Ayton   | 384                                |                 |                    |             |                        |                  |                   |
| Rossville           | 200                                |                 |                    |             |                        |                  |                   |
| Cooktown            | 1500                               | 1344            | 1344               |             |                        |                  |                   |
| Hopevale            | 1000                               | 825             | 590                | 790         | 800                    | 972              | 837               |
| Laura               | 100                                |                 |                    |             |                        |                  |                   |
| Coen                | 365                                |                 |                    |             |                        |                  |                   |
| Lockhart River      | 470                                | 535             | 431                |             | 450                    | 584              | 567               |
| Chillie Beach       | 20                                 |                 |                    |             |                        |                  |                   |
| Portland Roads      | 20                                 |                 |                    |             |                        |                  |                   |
| Umagico             | 250                                |                 |                    |             | 200                    | 189              | 188               |
| Injinoo             | 500                                | 320             |                    |             | 420                    | 342              | 321               |
| Bamaga              | 1200                               | 680             | 1506               |             | 1000                   | 575              | 846               |
| Seisia              | 120                                |                 |                    |             | 100                    |                  | 111               |
| New Mapoon          | 250                                |                 |                    |             | 200                    | 261              | 273               |
| Thursday Island     | 3500                               | 2645            |                    |             |                        |                  |                   |
| Horn Island         | 600                                |                 |                    |             |                        |                  |                   |
| Prince of Wales Isl | 150                                |                 |                    |             |                        |                  |                   |
| Weipa               | 2500                               | 2512            |                    |             |                        |                  |                   |
| Napranum            | 1080                               | 702             | 645                | 750         | 800                    | 698              | 703               |
| Mapuna              | 150                                |                 |                    |             |                        | 150              |                   |
| Aurukun             | 1000                               | 781             |                    |             |                        | 781              |                   |
| Pormpuraaw          | 438                                | 483             | 543                | 445         | 450                    | 531              | 503               |
| Kowanyama           | 1012                               | 1013            | 922                |             | 950                    | 1169             | 993               |
| Lakelands           | 66                                 |                 |                    |             |                        |                  |                   |
| Cattle Properties   | 690                                |                 |                    |             |                        |                  |                   |
| Total               | 18,023                             |                 |                    |             |                        |                  |                   |

Source: Fieldwork 1994, Department of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs, Parliamentary Committee of Public Accounts, ABS Cdata91.

These places are defined in exactly the same way in both the 1991 census and the 1994 community count, in that outstation populations are not included in either and the population is contained within a clearly known and mapped boundary. The total 1994 figure for the compared places is 17 to 20% higher than the 1991 census population, clearly far in excess of an annual growth rate of 2.8%. Besides the 2.8% growth figure is only used here as an example. There are sound reasons (discussed later) to believe that the real growth figure could be even higher.

Table 2 also records some of John Taylor's population estimates for different communities, closer to the time of the census. These contrast with the Annual Report figures which he included for comparison. The variation is statistically significant, adding evidence to the likelihood of a floating population going in and out of the community counts.

The 1994 community populations were described to us as excluding the floating population, although medium term visitors were included. Thus it is likely that 2,000 floaters could be a maximum, especially as many are likely to be temporarily absent from other Cape York Peninsula communities, where they are probably still included in the existing count.

The next problem involves the outstations. Communities defined their outstations as follows at the time of the survey: Wujal Wujal, Bonnieglenn with 6 to 8 people who had come in on the day of our visit; Hopevale, Black Mountain with no one resident at that time; Lockhart River, Night Island and Kakuyowo; Injinoo, Pajinka Lodge is hardly an outstation, but it is staffed and controlled through Injinoo; Coen, Meripah, Glengarland, Port Stewart, Lama Lama, Bassinis, Wenlock river; Napranum, a number of small outstations close to Napranum; Mapuna, in some senses an outstation to Napranum and New Mapoon, hence the small number of houses; Pormpuraaw, the community count includes the population that may usually be resident on a number of small outstations (Taylor suggests this may be 50 to 60 people). Kowanyama's population count probably also includes most of the outstation's populations, but these were not defined by the council informant.

These are the explanations and justifications that lie behind the estimate of a basic maximum resident population of 18,023 plus up to 2,000 floating visitors, although the floaters are probably closer to 1,000. On top of this figure are the non related visitors - tourists.

Leaving aside the visitor numbers, if we assume that there is an average of only one related visitor per Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island household, Cape York Peninsula could have a total of 19,111. This is 31% higher than the 1991 census figure, or 21% higher than the 1994 population figure that might have resulted if the previous decade's average growth rate had been sustained from 1991 to 1994.

The growth rate between 1981 and 1986 was an average of 1.65% a year, but between 1986 and 1991 it averaged 3.7% a year. If the recent five year rate had been sustained, the 1991 resident population would have increased to 16,208, still 17.9% below the community count.

What all of this indicates is support for the statement made in all communities that the 1991 census was a serious undercount, especially of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island population. If we accept a continued rapid growth rate in the population, resulting from natural increase and in migration from places outside the CYPLUS area, then the 1994 community count suggests that at least 1,815 people are missing. However, as the 1991 census should have included all of the floating population, the addition of an estimated 1,088 persons (one per Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island household) would take the potential missing population to 2,903.

If there was an undercount, this range of 1,815 to 2,903 seems reasonable. Allegations of an undercount were made by council officials in most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities. Reasons for lack of co-operation with the census primarily concerned people's attitude to government information collection, as well as a fear that information about their families could be used against them by other government departments. An arguably justifiable long term distrust of government by members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island community would explain why an undercount might have occurred.

As the figures suggest that such an undercount did occur, it is highly probable that such non-compliance with the census primarily took place in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island community. If we assume 100% compliance of the non- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island

community the potential shortfall of 1,815 to 2,903 people would be added to the expected 1994 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island population (based on an average 3.7% increase during the early 1990's).

Unfortunately we do not know how many of the visitors were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people. If we assume (probably erroneously) that visitors were in the same proportion as the censused population (ie. 51.2% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island ) then in 1994 there could be expected to be 7,246 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people, increased at a mean 3.7% a year to 8,050 and 6,260 non- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people also increasing at 3.7% a year (probably much too high for this population) to 6,955. If we then add the census shortfall of 1,815 to 2,903 people to the resident Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island community this would give 9,865 to 10,953. With rounding errors this would then suggest that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island population is between 59% and 61% of the Cape York Peninsula population. This is a minimum, as the estimate is based on similar growth rates of the two communities, when in fact it is almost certain that most of the inter-censal growth rate is contributed by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island community. This proportion seems much more likely than the 51% suggested by the census and tallies with the (verbal) estimates from other researchers and informants.

It is superfluous to go any further with these rough estimates. Too many assumptions have already been made and data do not exist either to support or refute these basic assumptions about growth rates, visitor ethnicity and so on. What the figures do show is that allegations of an undercount are probably correct and that the 1994 community counts are a reasonably accurate estimate of the population of Cape York Peninsula.

The problem with the undercount is that it does not merely deflate the census figures, but it skews the results away from the characteristics of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island population towards the significantly different characteristics of the non- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island population. This skew in characteristics puts the census in a ratio of virtually 1:1, while the true ratio of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island to non- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island characteristics is much closer to 2:1.

However, because this is really little more than deductive guesswork, the 1991 census results are presented as they are published, with the warning that absolute numbers cannot be relied on for planning purposes and that characteristics are indicative only.

### 3. POPULATION INCREASE

The previous section has indicated problems with the census and population numbers. The volatility of both the population and the data are driven by the dynamics of variable migration processes, variable rates of natural increase, a residentially mobile population and variable quality in data collection. While all of these are important issues in understanding the population of Cape York Peninsula, they present enormous difficulties in attempting to make population projections.

Therefore this section will start by analysing known data and existing population projections. The first two sets of figures are based on previous censuses where the data have been aggregated by SLA, or LGA (LGAs and SLAs are synonymous on Cape York Peninsula, but they do not correspond to the CYPLUS area). The smallest anomaly is Wujal Wujal, which is part of Douglas Shire. As the population dynamics in Douglas Shire are very different to those on the rest of Cape York Peninsula, figures and projections for Douglas will not be used. Wujal Wujal is fairly representative of Cape York Peninsula, but not of Douglas, which in total is therefore not representative of Cape York Peninsula.

Torres Shire includes the northern Torres Strait Islands, which are not included in the study area. However, the northern islands are reasonably representative of the rest of Cape York Peninsula, so Torres Strait Island data are used. Similarly Carpentaria is chopped in half by the CYPLUS boundary. Again the southern non-CYPLUS section of Carpentaria, down to Normanton is reasonably representative of the rest of Cape York Peninsula, so data from this shire have been used in order to include the Kowanyama to Pormpuraaw area.

Obviously this greater Cape York Peninsula area has a larger population than the CYPLUS area, but it is reliably indicative of the overall change and dynamism in population. Table 3 shows the populations of these shires in the last three censuses. It is probably reasonable to assume an ongoing undercount, and steadily increasing number of tourists.

**Table 3. ABS Census Time Series Populations for Cape York Peninsula**

| Shire          | Aurukun | Carpentaria | Cook,<br>excluding<br>Weipa | Weipa | Torres | Total         |
|----------------|---------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------|--------|---------------|
| Males 1981     | 415     | 1783        | 2408                        | 1443  | 3070   | 9119          |
| Females 1981   | 376     | 1490        | 1807                        | 990   | 3061   | 7724          |
| Total 1981     | 791     | 3273        | 4215                        | 2433  | 6131   | 16843         |
| Males 1986     | 478     | 1765        | 2712                        | 1416  | 3463   | 9834          |
| Females 1986   | 457     | 1521        | 2066                        | 994   | 3357   | 8359          |
| Total 1986     | 935     | 3286        | 4778                        | 2410  | 6820   | 18229         |
| Males 1991     | 397     | 2034        | 3560                        | 1469  | 4281   | 11741         |
| Females 1991   | 384     | 1768        | 2720                        | 1043  | 3950   | 9865          |
| Total 1991     | 781     | 3802        | 6280                        | 2512  | 8231   | 21606         |
| Growth 1981-86 | 18.2    | 0.4         | 13.36                       | -0.95 | 11.24  | 1.6 mean p.a  |
| Growth 1986-91 | -16.47  | 15.7        | 31.44                       | 4.23  | 20.69  | 3.7 mean p.a. |
| Growth 1981-91 | -1.26   | 16.16       | 48.99                       | 3.25  | 34.25  | 2.8 mean p.a  |

The average growth in the population increased from 1.6% a year between 1981 and 1986 to 3.7% a year between 1986 and 1991. Aurukun had a high growth rate in the early 1980s, then experienced out migration in the late 1980s. Carpentaria's growth was similar, but the other way round, while Weipa has grown very slightly in the late 1980s after an earlier decline. The rest of Cook Shire and the Torres Shire are the areas that have accounted for most of the growth, especially in the late 1980s. All the elements, of tourism, return migration and a relatively high natural increase will have contributed to this increase.

Is this increase likely to be sustained? For Torres Shire this constitutes an average 305 persons extra each year. At present levels only 47 of these would be visitors, the rest migrants. As housing is both a pressing need and an attraction to return migrants, this average annual increase would represent 43 additional houses a year, or a mean of about 6 in each community. This sort of level of construction is achievable in the short to medium term. Disenchanted Cairns, Townsville, Yarrabah and Palm Island residents had returned to communities on Cape York Peninsula, while others had expressed a desire to return. Waiting lists for housing existed for both resident families and intending return migrants. There is thus no reason why the growth rate of the population between 1986 and 1991 should not have been sustained, or even increased after 1991. In the long term though, the small size of the population, lack of resources and housing, will provide their own constraints to continued high growth.

Before the 1970s the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island population was dispersed, relocated and controlled by government departments. People of different linguistic groups were often arbitrarily lumped into other communities and places unconnected with their ancestral land. This process also dispersed geographical ethnic groups into a number of different communities, thereby later giving members of these groups a number of alternative residential staging points.

While this contributes to the mobility of the population it has also played a role in more permanent migration. During the 1970s Torres Strait Islanders in particular, as well as many other Aboriginal people, migrated to urban centres, primarily larger cities, but also to smaller towns. At the same time the outstation movement began as a counter to the urban migration stream. Large scale out migration had happened for many communities by the early 1980s, while the outstation movement gathered momentum. In a general sense most of the communities of Cape York Peninsula would be regarded as outstations, especially those with populations below 1,000. However, the sense in which the term is used on Cape York Peninsula applies only to the satellite small rural settlements that lie out from the parent community. While some writers describe the movement back from the city to remote rural communities as the outstation movement, the Cape York Peninsula population would restrict this term to movement out from the core community to the satellite settlements. This latter movement is not fed by returning urban migrants.

Because of the considerable level of out migration earlier, there is a continuing potential for return migrants. As levels of unemployment are high for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people in urban areas, return migration is a viable proposition. Additionally, council control and increasing independence from government departments makes the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities more attractive places of residence in a social and political sense. ATSIIC program funding associated with the CDEP also makes them economically attractive. As a significant part of project funding goes into housing a further attraction is the housing itself. On top of these positive developments is the even greater potential for development, business and control that looks likely to result from successful land claims. While these

claims may be drawn out, the councils will be managing their lands in the interim and can be expected to innovate patterns of land use.

While much of this may be hypothetical, the point is that these changes and developments represent a turning around of a formerly moribund and controlled state. The perceptions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people towards the Cape York Peninsula communities are more important contributors to migration than the likely economic reality. Thus over the next decade or so there seem to be more reasons to expect an increased return migration rate, than an expectation of increased out migration.

The Department of Housing Local Government and Planning produced population projections for the Far North Statistical Division and the Shires in Cape York Peninsula. For the whole of the Far North Statistical Division the rate of growth is projected from 1991 in five year intervals to 2011, based on estimated resident populations in 1986 and 1991. These estimates are based on the ABS census, but exclude migratory areas. The low projections go from 2.4% a year between 1991 and 1996 to 1.7% between 1996 and 2001, declining to 1.3% by 2006 to 2011. The medium projections decline steadily from 2.6% a year between 1991 to 1996, to 1.6% by 2011. The high projections move from 2.7% 1991 to 1996 to 2% by 2011. The actual growth for the resident population of the Far North between 1986 and 1991 had been 2.5% a year, compared to 2.3% on Cape York Peninsula. This lower growth rate of the resident population contrasts with the inter-censal increase during this period of 3.7%. The inter-censal change includes visitors whose numbers also increased dramatically in the late 1980s. However, the Department of Housing Local Government and Planning projections are still low in comparison to their own stated growth rates between 1986 and 1991.

Table 4 indicates projected growth rates for the Cape York Peninsula shires. All projection growth rates are much lower than for the whole of the Far North Statistical Division. All of these are also well below the national population increase of 1.5% by 1991, with a natural increase of 0.83% and net migration of 0.64% a year.

**Table 4. Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning Population Projections 1994**

|                                    | Cook/<br>Weipa/<br>Aurukun<br>shires | Torres<br>shire | Carpentaria<br>shire | Total | Mean<br>Annual<br>Percent<br>Increase |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|
| Estimated Resident Population 1986 | 7840                                 | 6807            | 3112                 | 17759 |                                       |
| Estimated Resident Population 1991 | 8289                                 | 8103            | 3376                 | 19768 | 2.3                                   |
| Low Projection 1996                | 8410                                 | 8685            | 3411                 | 20506 | 0.7                                   |
| Low Projection 2001                | 8492                                 | 9192            | 3373                 | 21057 | 0.5                                   |
| Low Projection 2006                | 8605                                 | 9700            | 3316                 | 21621 | 0.5                                   |
| Low Projection 2011                | 8729                                 | 10205           | 3209                 | 22143 | 0.5                                   |
| Medium Projection 1996             | 8475                                 | 8750            | 3429                 | 20654 | 0.9                                   |
| Medium Projection 2001             | 8705                                 | 9421            | 3463                 | 21589 | 0.9                                   |
| Medium Projection 2006             | 8956                                 | 10198           | 3488                 | 22642 | 1.0                                   |
| Medium Projection 2011             | 9223                                 | 10781           | 3481                 | 23485 | 0.7                                   |
| High Projection 1996               | 8539                                 | 8799            | 3461                 | 20799 | 1.0                                   |
| High Projection 2001               | 8996                                 | 9655            | 3510                 | 22161 | 1.3                                   |
| High Projection 2006               | 9487                                 | 10542           | 3556                 | 23585 | 1.3                                   |
| High Projection 2011               | 9988                                 | 11443           | 3571                 | 25002 | 1.2                                   |

Source: Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning 1994

The actual census figures show a very different situation from these projections. Aside from the overall rapid population increase on Cape York Peninsula, including visitors, the increase in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island population has also been very high. Between 1981 and 1986 the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island population increased by a mean of 1.3% a year, while between 1986 and 1991 their population increased by a mean of 3.7% a year. This is more than just visitors increasing.

A population projection must assume a combination of both natural increase plus some continued in migration. The population evidence suggests that in migration is occurring, possibly quite rapidly, rather than the reverse of out migration. While it would be unreasonable to project a long term high rate of in migration, it has already been pointed out that there are many reasons to believe that return migration will continue in the short to medium term, ie. the next ten years, and it is certainly not likely that the reverse rate of out migration will suddenly take over.

The 1971 National Population Inquiry showed that the birth rate of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island population was 35 per 1000 and death rate 16 per 1000 with both rates expected to decline. However, recent community studies have suggested that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island birth and death rates are still significantly above the national average. For example Taylor's study of Pormpuraaw recorded a crude birth rate of 19.1 per 1000 and crude death rate of 10.5 per 1000 between 1970 and 1987. Both of these rates had declined considerably from the 1940 to 1969 rates of a 29.4 per 1000 birth rate and 19.5 per 1000 death rate.

Table 5. Population of 0 to 4 year olds, 1981 to 1991

| Shire              | Census Total Number |      |      | Mean Annual Growth Rate % |         |         |
|--------------------|---------------------|------|------|---------------------------|---------|---------|
|                    | 1981                | 1986 | 1991 | 1981-86                   | 1986-91 | 1981-91 |
| Aurukun            | 99                  | 96   | 66   | -0.6                      | -6.25   | -3.3    |
| Carpentaria        | 302                 | 314  | 381  | 0.8                       | 4.3     | 2.6     |
| Cook (excl. Weipa) | 376                 | 443  | 585  | 3.6                       | 6.4     | 5.6     |
| Weipa              | 282                 | 265  | 248  | -1.2                      | -1.3    | -1.2    |
| Torres             | 837                 | 846  | 1135 | 0.2                       | 6.8     | 3.6     |
| Total              | 1896                | 1964 | 2415 | 0.7                       | 4.6     | 2.7     |

Source: ABS

Table 5 shows the inter-censal increase (for the greater Cape York Peninsula area) of 0 to 4 year olds. The recent rapid increase is quite marked, relating to the overall population increase. It is unlikely that many of these children were tourist visitors, although they were not necessarily all born on Cape York Peninsula. A return migration would have involved the migration of children as well. Obviously a census undercount will affect this population as well as the general Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island population, especially if the undercount was of whole families. If the undercount involved under reporting of visitors, then the child population may be relatively less undercounted. Again we do not really know, but it is reasonable to assume from these figures that there has been a significant expansion in the child population, as well as in the adult population.

### 3.1 Demographic Rates

These indicators of population increase lend support to the results of fieldwork and data collection of births and deaths records. We concentrated on one year, 1993, as it was the most recent year with a full record and could relate to the population estimates for mid 1994.

However, there are a number of problems with births and deaths records. These were housed at Cooktown, Thursday Island and Cairns courthouses. Many of the births and deaths of Cape York Peninsula people take place outside Cape York Peninsula in Cairns. For deaths we used the place of residence of the informant of the deceased person, along with the place of burial of the deceased to determine the community of origin of that person. This was especially important for those who died or were born in Cairns. For births the place of residence of the mother was used to determine community of residence.

The chronological order of the records suggested that many came in very slowly, so that courthouse records for 1993 may not have been complete, especially when related to the community count. These unreliable figures suggest a crude death rate of 6.2 per 1000, and a crude birth rate of 9.2 per 1000, thus giving a natural increase of 0.3%. These data are presented here because they were gathered, and could still be interpreted as a low estimate.

I regard them as unreliable because of the suspicion that under reporting had probably occurred. It was also uncertain what population these records were drawn from. Additionally, there was a serious shortfall of birth records. Comparison of court records with those of clinics that we visited suggested that some, or many of the births in the communities appeared not to have reached the courthouse. Of all the deaths that were recorded at Cairns, Cooktown and Thursday Island courthouses (Weipa records were held at Cooktown) it can at least be calculated that the average age at death was 49 years.

In the face of problems associated with courthouse records we attempted to collect births and deaths figures directly from clinics. This data collection was curtailed by the Area Health Authority after four clinic visits, but additional data were subsequently supplied by them for a selection of additional clinics.

Table 6 records the total births and deaths from the communities served by the clinics at Wujal Wujal, Hopevale, Lockhart River, Laura, Coen, Weipa, Napranum, Aurukun, Pormpuraaw and Kowanyama. The main places missing are Bamaga and Thursday Island. However, although most of the places covered are dominantly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities, the clinics served all people. Thus the total population served by these clinics is both representative of the population and mutually exclusive. The total number is also more than 50% of the community count. If it is assumed that the Torres Shire, cattle properties, Lakelands and Cooktown are not included in table 6, it would appear that the whole population is accounted for. The community count of the clinic areas that constitute the table 6 total population of 9,689, comes to 8,997, suggesting that the clinics may in fact serve some of the cattle properties, as well as a few visitors. We know, for example that non- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island populations such as Bloomfield/Ayton use Wujal Wujal, while Chillie Beach/Portland Roads use Lockhart River.

**Table 6. Basic Demography of Population Served by Clinics at Wujal Wujal, Hopevale, Laura, Coen, Lockhart River, Weipa, Napranum, Aurukun, Pormpuraaw and Kowanyama, 1993.**

|                        | Births at the Community Clinic and at Cairns, in 1993 | Deaths in the community and at Cairns, in 1993 | Total Population Served by the Clinic |
|------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| Crude Number           | 175   | 83   | 9,689                                 |
| Crude rate per 1,000   | 18.1  | 8.6  |                                       |
| Crude Natural Increase |   |  | 0.95%                                 |

Source: Peninsula and Torres Strait Regional Health Authority, Clinic records; Fieldwork 1994  
Courthouse Births and Deaths Records, Cairns Courthouse

The births and deaths figures include all people from the population that is served by that clinic. With detailed local knowledge the data includes births and deaths both at the clinic and in the community, and in other places, mainly Cairns. Where the Area Health Authority figures referred to births and deaths at the clinic only, additional births and deaths for that community recorded in Cairns Courthouse, were added in. The crude birth and death rates shown in table 6 are for a very representative part of the Cape York Peninsula population, giving an overall natural increase of 0.95%. As table 5 showed that the biggest increase in under 5 year olds occurred in Torres Shire, it is likely that the crude birth rate for that area is higher than for the rest, although it is also arguable that a smaller Cooktown has a lower rate.

It is therefore, with a reasonable level of confidence, that the natural increase of the population of Cape York Peninsula can be stated as 1% a year, likely to decline gradually over the long term towards the overall national average. The present higher rate coupled with return migration, a generally young population, and presently increasing economic opportunities amongst the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island community support the belief that this natural increase will not decline significantly during the rest of this century.

The Department of Housing Local Government and Planning projections in table 4 are therefore only acceptable if there has been and continues to be net out migration, or in the case of the high projection only a very low rate of return migration. Therefore, before proceeding to an attempt at projecting the resident population it is necessary to analyse what might be happening to migration.

### 3.2 Migration

Firstly there is a need for further research. The ABS publishes basic time series tables allowing cross comparisons between the 1981, 1986 and 1991 censuses. Unfortunately, these tables do not include previous residence or visitor numbers. Migration can also be analysed by specific studies in communities, or sample surveys. If more precise knowledge of the processes and motives behind return migration is required, such surveys may be necessary.

It is useful to examine the available data on one group, the Torres Strait Islanders. The CYPLUS area excludes some of the Torres Strait Islands. These are outer islands from which some of the former patterns of out migration may continue, as people move down to Thursday Island, or the communities at the tip of Cape York, for better access to services, facilities and economic opportunities. This would probably not include many people as the total population of Torres Shire (including visitors) in 1991 was 8,231, while the population of the CYPLUS part of Torres Shire was 6,570. Torres Strait Islanders in Torres amounted to 5,680. The Torres Strait Islander population in Torres had grown at a mean annual rate of 0.85% between 1981 and 1986, but 3.5% between 1986 and 1991. With this population we are clearly excluding tourists and can say with certainty that much of this increase represents net in migration.

Of the whole Cape York Peninsula resident population only 58.3% had lived at the same address five years previously, 9.6% had lived elsewhere in the same SLA, but 19% (2,371) had lived elsewhere in Queensland.

Most Torres Strait Islanders live outside Torres Shire. In the rest of Queensland live another 8,879 Torres Strait Islanders, 2,165 in Cairns/Mulgrave, 1,269 in Townsville/Thuringowa, 876 in Mackay/Pioneer and 1,224 in Brisbane/Logan/Albert Shires. These are all significant

communities. This still leaves another 3,345 Torres Strait Islanders in small numbers scattered throughout most of the shires of Queensland.

Outside Queensland in the rest of Australia live another 12,162 Torres Strait Islanders. There is a powerful basis for continued return migration. Only 114 people returning to Torres Strait Islands in 1992 would have added 2% to the existing Torres Strait Islander population in Torres. A compounded 2% rate of return migration, added to a 1% natural increase would bring about a rapid increase in the population of Torres Shire, but would not constitute an enormous change to the very much larger Torres Strait Islander population in the rest of the country. In other words there exists a potential for significant return migration. The recent increase in the Torres Strait Islander population in Torres suggests that return migration is taking place for this group.

Informants in all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities claimed that members of their communities towns and cities outside Cape York Peninsula were returning to the region. The reasons given included the attraction of living 'at home', family ties, lack of economic opportunities down south, increasing opportunities being generated by CDEP, ATSI funded projects, new developments, indigenous control, plus the excitement and potential generated by land rights and indigenous control.

The ability of the councils to build houses could be a controlling factor in return migration. The main purpose in house building is to reduce the already high occupancy rates and multi family structure of many households. The priority is to house the population already resident in each community. This in itself will go a long way towards arresting any possible out migration. It will also be an attraction to residents outside Cape York Peninsula, especially those who have maintained links with their families.

This is only a partial background to a number of migration patterns. Without precise statistical data these can be summarised as a series of processes. These are as follows:

1. Continued out migration of small numbers of young non- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people for education and in response to a lack of educational opportunities.
2. Reduced out migration of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people as educational and employment opportunities increase.
3. Continuing return migration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people in response to improved economic conditions on Cape York Peninsula, increased housing and indigenous land ownership.
4. In or out migration at Weipa in relation to decisions made by Comalco. The workforce 6 to 7 years ago was 1400, and is now 729, but has stabilised. An annual 17% turnover of staff, with an average 6 year stay will shift towards greater stability, and increased family numbers under the company's normalisation policy.
5. Gradual increase in retirement migration to Cooktown and communities down the coast towards Wujal Wujal.
6. Military in migration: Shergar Air Base has brought in 150 construction workers (army and civilian) with an expected peak in 1996/97. In the long term it will only have two caretaker's families, but generally will house 400 Defence Force Personnel in exercises etc.

A potential exists for other military bases.

7. In migration to other mines. Cape Flattery was not included in the community count as it is a fairly impermanent township with 90 employees (sometimes up to 110) 50 of whom are Aboriginal (80% from Hopevale on whose DOGIT the mine is situated). It is possible that indigenous ownership may see more (probably small scale) mines with the potential for low rates of in migration and expanding economic opportunities.

8. Increasing visitor numbers may attract small numbers of additional service providers, tourist operators and tourist workers. It may also provide additional local employment.

9. Small scale in migration of Torres Strait Islanders from the outer islands will occur towards the larger communities in the CYPLUS part of Torres Shire.

From this analysis of the patterns of demography, it can be predicted that during the remainder of the 1990s, a 1% average natural increase, plus a 2% average rate of in migration will increase the resident population from around 18,000 in 1994 to around 21,800 by 2001. On top of this will be numbers of related visitors moving between communities, in the order of 1 to 2,000 people. These numbers are partially seasonal, and will go much higher during special events. Then there will be tourist numbers on top of this population. An average increase of less than 3% a year seems unlikely in the light of the processes happening at the present time. A higher rate may be feasible, but will be controlled by housing availability. By 2001 the future direction of Cape York Peninsula will determine rates of growth after that time. The population of the whole region is small, the economy fragile and welfare dependent, and political change volatile. These factors can very quickly alter the attractiveness of the region to its population. Therefore, any projection beyond 2001 can only be imaginative. I have not made high or low projections because 3% is almost certainly the growth rate that is currently happening. Changes to this rate are most likely to occur as a consequence of political decisions.

#### 4. 1991 CENSUS OF CAPE YORK PENINSULA

Although there was probably an undercount at the 1991 census, the data from that census still gives us the most complete picture of Cape York Peninsula's population that is possible. In interpreting the figures for planning purposes adjustments should be made towards a greater Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in the proportions proposed in the previous section on population estimates. For the same planning purposes many of the tables that follow use actual numbers rather than proportions. The next section of this report analyses the spatial patterns between collection districts, but here the total figures are grouped for the whole of the CYPLUS area of Cape York Peninsula.

There are 38 Collection Districts covering the CYPLUS area. These have been added together to produce each of tables 7 to 28. These tables are produced here because they represent the basic socio-economic and demographic data of the population. They are produced from the ABS Cdata91. The community profiles that are produced by the ABS in the form of Cprofile contain slightly more detail than the Cdata91 format, but they are much more limited when it comes to grouping or analysing data. Individual communities may purchase these because they provide very detailed information in the 56 basic tables. The ABS has used the larger Statistical Local Area to make comparisons between censuses, or used the more detailed expanded profile, rather than the Collection District as its base area. On Cape York Peninsula this corresponds to the Local Government Area, which is either greater, or less than the total of the CYPLUS area. For example, both Torres and Carpentaria Shires include additional population that is outside the CYPLUS area.

The comparative census data for 1981, 86 and 91 used the Cprofile, but was restricted to the SLA's, thus having a larger overall population than the CYPLUS area. Also while the Cprofile is excellent when you want a detailed piece of information about one community, it is very clumsy when you try to export tables or portions of tables, and is positively restrictive if you try to print out information or tables. A complete ABS printout of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community profiles was submitted to the CYPLUS Taskforce with the progress reports. These profiles are also available directly from the ABS. Analysis of these is not included here for the following reasons: 1 it is not yet available on Cdata, so it is not easy to aggregate the data, 2 we can be reasonably certain that there was an undercount in the census, but it seems likely that the undercount was not the same in all communities, and 3 most of the communities also contain non-indigenous people who are an integral part of the communities in terms of the roles they play. Therefore, the individual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community profiles give a slightly distorted picture. The aggregated data will be more useful when it becomes available.

As a result of these limitations of the census data, the overall population profile uses the Cdata basic community profiles, aggregated for the 38 Collection Districts that constitute the CYPLUS area. The tables presented here are a small selection of the total number of tables and variables that could have been produced. Much of the data would have been irrelevant, especially such things as country of birth, but there may be other characteristics that could be useful. These can be produced easily at a later stage if required. At this stage the complete ABS package of Cdata is still not available; especially the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Profiles and the Times Series Profiles (note that these were produced first in the Cprofile format, and that is what has been used here). The tables are self explanatory. Annotation and commentary is provided here in a fairly descriptive manner as an accompaniment to the tables.

**Table 7** records the basic selected characteristics, in particular the total population. Discussion of the reliability of this figure was covered in the previous section. This number includes all people who were present on Cape York Peninsula on census night, excluding those who failed to co-operate. The number self reported as unemployed is surprisingly low and bears no relation to the official unemployment rate. Many people who are on the CDEP scheme, the majority of the workforce in many communities, reported themselves as employed. The sex ratio is significantly skewed with 120 males per 100 females.

**Table 8** shows visitor numbers, also discussed in some detail in the previous section. Over 87% are basically from the CYPLUS area. The 2.6% who came from the same Statistical Local Area could have been from outside the CYPLUS area in Torres and Carpentaria, but this is not likely to be significant. The visitors otherwise are in three distinct categories; tourists, short term itinerant workers, and members of the Cape York Peninsula communities who probably originate mostly from Queensland, but could be from almost anywhere in the country. With Queensland dominant as a source of visitors it is likely that most of the tourists are also from the same state.

**Table 9** shows the usual place of residence 5 years ago, thus being an indicator of migration. A very significant 32.1% of the population over 15 years of age was not resident in Cape York Peninsula 5 years ago. The total numbers by shire indicate a high rate of increase between 1986 and 1991. This table also supports a high rate of return migration. In fact almost 4,000 in migrants, or 800 on average a year is almost double the average rate of population increase over the last five years. It is indicative of the high rate of mobility and exchange of the population; a net in migration that is made up of much greater movements in and out of the area. Again most of that change of residence is from elsewhere in Queensland.

**Table 10** records the numbers and proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people, also discussed earlier. An interesting comparison is with **table 12**, which indicates the language spoken at home. Although there were 8,576 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people, only 3,087 spoke an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island language at home.

**Table 7. Cape York Peninsula, 38 CDs, 1991 Census.  
Selected Characteristics.**

|  | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Persons</u> |
|--|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total Persons  | 9141         | 7602           | 16743          |
| Aged 15 years or more  | 6566         | 5275           | 11841          |
| Australian born  | 7912         | 6849           | 14761          |
| Born overseas  |              |                |                |
| Main: English speaking country (a)                                 | 396          | 310            | 706            |
| Other country (b)  | 410          | 237            | 647            |
| Total  | 806          | 547            | 1353           |
| Speaks English only and aged<br>5 years or more                    | 5667         | 4451           | 10118          |
| Speaks language other than English (c)<br>and aged 5 years or more | 2018         | 2005           | 4023           |
| Australian citizens  | 8346         | 7151           | 15497          |
| Aust. citizens aged 16 years or over                               | 5590         | 4528           | 10118          |
| Unemployed (d)   | 356          | 229            | 585            |
| Employed (d)   | 4466         | 3327           | 7793           |
| In the labour force (d)  | 4862         | 2556           | 7418           |
| Not in the labour force (d)  | 1352         | 2311           | 3663           |
| Enumerated in private dwellings:                                   |              |                |                |
| In caravans etc. in caravan parks (e)                              | 562          | 421            | 983            |
| In other private dwellings   | 7556         | 6828           | 14384          |
| Total  | 8098         | 7249           | 15347          |
| Enumerated in non-private dwellings                                | 1034         | 366            | 1400           |
| Enumerated in a magistrory or census<br>collection district        | 0            | 0              | 0              |

(a) Comprises England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Ireland, South Africa, Canada, USA, and New Zealand

(b) Includes 'inadequately described', 'at sea', and 'not elsewhere classified'

(c) Includes 'other languages indicated but not stated' and 'inadequately described'

(d) Applicable to persons aged 15 years or more.

(e) Includes accepted boats in marinas.

**Table 8. Cape York Peninsula, 38 CDs, 1991 Census.  
Place of Usual Residence on Census Night.**

|   | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Persons</u> | <u>Prop%</u> |
|---|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Counted at home                         | 7531         | 6615           | 14146          | 84.5         |
| Visitors from -                         |              |                |                |              |
| Same statistical local area             | 261          | 182            | 443            | 2.6          |
| Different statistical<br>local area in: |              |                |                |              |
| New South Wales                         | 204          | 168            | 372            | 2.2          |
| Victoria                                | 137          | 121            | 258            | 1.5          |
| Queensland                              | 839          | 437            | 1276           | 7.6          |
| South Australia                         | 60           | 24             | 84             | 0.5          |
| Western Australia                       | 22           | 14             | 36             | 0.2          |
| Tasmania                                | 6            | 6              | 12             | 0.1          |
| Northern Territory                      | 0            | 3              | 3              | 0            |
| Aust Capital Territory                  | 23           | 6              | 29             | 0            |
| Total                                   | 1291         | 779            | 2070           | 12.4         |
| Overseas                                | 58           | 26             | 84             | 0.5          |
| Total                                   | 1610         | 987            | 2597           | 15.5         |
| Total                                   | 9141         | 7602           | 16743          | 100          |
| True table population                   |              |                | 0              |              |

**Table 9. Cape York Peninsula, 38 CDs. 1991 Census.  
Usual Place of Residence 5 Years Ago.**

|                                | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Persons</u> | <u>Prop%</u> |
|--------------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Same address 5 years ago       | 1787         | 1473           | 3260           | 38.3         |
| Different address 5 years ago  | 611          | 195            | 806            | 9.6          |
| Same residential locality      |              |                |                |              |
| Different residential locality |              |                |                |              |
| lived elsewhere                |              |                |                |              |
| New South Wales                | 110          | 87             | 197            | 1.4          |
| Victoria                       | 75           | 45             | 120            | 1            |
| Queensland                     | 1364         | 1081           | 2445           | 18           |
| South Australia                | 22           | 21             | 43             | 0.5          |
| Western Australia              | 48           | 41             | 89             | 0.7          |
| Tasmania                       | 4            | 3              | 7              | 0.1          |
| Northern Territory             | 28           | 26             | 54             | 0.5          |
| Act Capital Territory          | 4            | 15             | 21             | 0.1          |
| Total                          | 1890         | 1321           | 3211           | 23.4         |
| Overseas                       | 85           | 57             | 142            | 1.2          |
| Not stated <sup>(1)</sup>      | 15           | 11             | 26             | 0.3          |
| Total                          | 2083         | 1546           | 3629           | 24.2         |
| Not stated <sup>(1)</sup>      | 262          | 325            | 587            | 7.2          |
| Total                          | 6641         | 3777           | 10418          | 100          |
| True table population          |              |                | 0              |              |

(1) Excludes visitors and usual residents who were absent on Census night

(2) Complete persons who stated that they lived at a different address five years ago but did not state that address

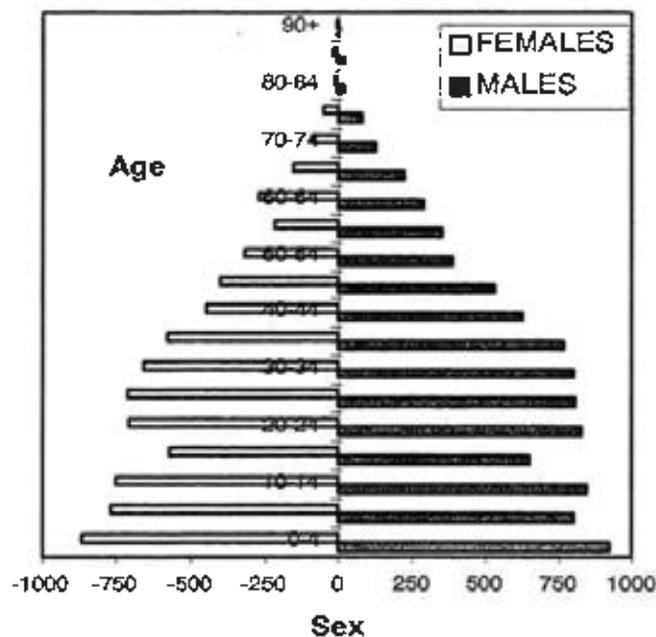
(3) Complete persons who did not state whether they lived at a different address five years ago

**Table 10. Cape York Peninsula, 38 CDs. 1991 Census.  
Aboriginality by Sex.**

|                                | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Persons</u> | <u>Prop%</u> |
|--------------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Aboriginal or TSI persons:     |              |                |                |              |
| Aboriginal persons             | 2729         | 2624           | 5353           | 31.9         |
| Torres Strait Islander persons | 1563         | 1660           | 3223           | 19.2         |
| Total                          | 4292         | 4284           | 8576           | 51.2         |
| Other persons                  | 4593         | 3137           | 7730           | 44.9         |
| Not stated                     | 449          | 201            | 650            | 3.9          |
| Total                          | 9134         | 7622           | 16756          | 100          |
| True table population          |              |                | 0              |              |

**Table 11** is the basic age sex structure of the Cape York Peninsula population. This is also illustrated by the age sex pyramid. This pyramid is not typical of the rest of Australia, but is not quite that of a third world country. It is a composite of two distinct communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people and non Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people. It is probable that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island community has an age sex structure that more closely resembles a third world pattern with a broad base and tapering pyramid, while the non-indigenous population has a structure much the same as the rest of Australia, with the classical developed country beehive shape; small numbers of children, a bulge in the adult years, remaining significantly high well into old age.

### Age Sex Structure of Cape York Peninsula Population



Thirty percent of the population is under 15 years of age, while the proportion of old people is very low. An interesting low figure is that of the 15 to 19 year age group. This may be interpreted as resulting from several factors: 1 the lack of employment opportunities for teenagers in Cape York Peninsula; 2 the lack of educational facilities coupled with a tradition of teenagers being sent south to boarding schools (different traditions for the different communities); 3 a generally young population, of young adults with young families; and 4 likely return migration of young families, with younger children. The bulge of younger to middle aged adults not only reflects return migration, but also fits in with the type of employment opportunities, such as mining, the spiralist type of career development, where people serve in remote locations early in their careers, and the likely ages of tourists.

The most significant point about the age sex structure is that it supports the assertion that this is a young and rapidly growing population. Infrastructural and service needs are going to need to be oriented towards that young population, with an expectation of continued high growth.

**Table 13** shows school and college attendance. Of the total population aged 5 to 14 years, inclusive, only 80% are attending primary or secondary school. You may expect some 5 year olds to be attending pre-school prior to enrolling in primary school the following year, having recently turned 5. However, this shortfall is much greater than would be allowed for by this small group of 5 year olds, especially as some of the school population must also include people who are 15 years or over, attending grades 9 to 12. The figures would seem to indicate that significant numbers of children are starting school later than five years and/or leaving school before they reach 15 years. This may not entirely be the fault of either parents or children. If the nearest high school is hundreds of kilometres away the only way of attending is to board. This is not a popular option for many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island families. Thus children tend to stay in primary school in the community for as long as possible, which is not necessarily even up to grade eight.

**Table 14** illustrates the consequences of these educational shortcomings. The table is for the population that is over 15 years of age. A high 12.3% left before they reached 15 years, while 1.7% never even went to school. An even more significant 11% did not answer the question.

**Table 15** shows the qualifications of the population over 15 years. Cape York Peninsula does not have the lowest proportion of qualified people in North Queensland. The cattle ranching areas further south have the highest proportions of unqualified people. Also, Cape York Peninsula is boosted by the fairly high numbers of administrators, the mine employees and skilled retirees.

**Table 16** supplements the unemployment figures that are indicated in Table 7, while **table 17** shows the occupations of employed persons over the age of 15 years. This is a slightly imbalanced structure with higher numbers of professional, administrative and managerial workers than would be expected in a larger, urban population. This is probably indicative of the limited economic base of the region.

**Table 11. Cape York Peninsula, 38 CDs. 1991 Census.  
Age and Sex Structure.**

|                  | <b>Males</b> | <b>Females</b> | <b>Persons</b> | <b>Prop%</b> |
|------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 0-4              | 924          | 864            | 1788           | 10.7         |
| 5-9              | 801          | 767            | 1568           | 9.4          |
| 10-14            | 848          | 750            | 1598           | 9.6          |
| 15-19            | 654          | 572            | 1226           | 7.4          |
| 20-24            | 831          | 707            | 1538           | 9.2          |
| 25-29            | 808          | 709            | 1517           | 9.1          |
| 30-34            | 803          | 653            | 1456           | 8.7          |
| 35-39            | 768          | 576            | 1344           | 8.1          |
| 40-44            | 629          | 448            | 1077           | 6.5          |
| 45-49            | 535          | 400            | 935            | 5.6          |
| 50-54            | 389          | 315            | 704            | 4.2          |
| 55-59            | 351          | 219            | 570            | 3.4          |
| 60-64            | 289          | 268            | 557            | 3.3          |
| 65-69            | 222          | 155            | 377            | 2.3          |
| 70-74            | 126          | 89             | 215            | 1.3          |
| 75-79            | 81           | 51             | 132            | 0.8          |
| 80-84            | 17           | 12             | 29             | 0.2          |
| 85-89            | 18           | 15             | 33             | 0.2          |
| 90 years or more | 3            | 6              | 9              | 0.1          |
| Total            | 9097         | 7576           | 16673          | 100          |

**Table 12. Cape York Peninsula, 38 CDs. 1991 Census.  
Language Spoken at Home.**

|                      | <b>Males</b> | <b>Females</b> | <b>Persons</b> | <b>Prop%</b> |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Speaks English only  | 5667         | 4451           | 10118          | 67.6         |
| Aboriginal languages | 1512         | 1575           | 3087           | 20.6         |
| Total                | 8212         | 6760           | 14972          | 100          |

**Table 13. Cape York Peninsula, 38 CDs. 1991 Census.  
Type of Educational Institution Attending.**

|                              | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Persons</u> | <u>Prop%</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Pre-School<br>Infant/Primary | 226          | 217            | 443            | 2.6          |
| Govt                         | 748          | 736            | 1484           | 8.9          |
| Non govt                     | 27           | 46             | 73             | 0.1          |
| Total                        | 785          | 782            | 1567           | 9.4          |
| Secondary:                   |              |                |                |              |
| Govt                         | 478          | 464            | 942            | 5.6          |
| Non govt                     | 14           | 6              | 20             | 0.1          |
| Total                        | 492          | 470            | 962            | 5.7          |
| TAFE, college                |              |                |                |              |
| Full-time                    | 7            | 29             | 36             | 0.2          |
| Part-time                    | 87           | 24             | 111            | 0.7          |
| Not stated                   | 1            | 0              | 1              | 0            |
| Total                        | 93           | 47             | 140            | 0.8          |
| CAER/University              |              |                |                |              |
| Full-time                    | 0            | 0              | 0              | 0.0          |
| Part-time                    | 39           | 75             | 112            | 0.6          |
| Not stated                   | 0            | 0              | 0              | 0            |
| Total                        | 44           | 75             | 111            | 0.6          |
| Other                        |              |                |                |              |
| Full-time                    | 28           | 28             | 56             | 0.3          |
| Part-time                    | 70           | 50             | 120            | 0.7          |
| Not stated                   | 0            | 3              | 3              | 0            |
| Total                        | 46           | 67             | 113            | 0.7          |
| Not attending                | 6132         | 5008           | 11140          | 66.6         |
| Not stated                   | 1264         | 960            | 2224           | 13.7         |
| Total                        | 9108         | 7624           | 16732          | 100          |
| True table population        |              |                | 0              |              |

**Table 14. Cape York Peninsula, 38 CDs. 1991 Census.  
Age Left School.**

|                       | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Persons</u> | <u>Prop%</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Under 15 years of age | 896          | 551            | 1447           | 12.3         |
| 15 years              | 1577         | 1209           | 2786           | 23.7         |
| 16 years              | 1479         | 1239           | 2718           | 23.1         |
| 17 years              | 925          | 894            | 1819           | 15.5         |
| 18 years              | 396          | 336            | 732            | 6.2          |
| 19 years or more      | 238          | 187            | 425            | 3.6          |
| Still at school       | 171          | 165            | 336            | 2.9          |
| Did not go to school  | 117          | 93             | 205            | 1.7          |
| Not stated            | 756          | 538            | 1294           | 11           |
| Total                 | 6550         | 5212           | 11762          | 100          |
| True table population |              |                | 0              |              |

**Table 15. Cape York Peninsula, 38 CDs. 1991 Census.  
Qualifications of Persons 15 years or more.**

|                        | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Persons</u> | <u>Prop%</u> |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Higher degree          | 39           | 16             | 55             | 0.5          |
| Post graduate diploma  | 28           | 52             | 80             | 0.7          |
| Bachelor degree        | 192          | 195            | 387            | 3.3          |
| Undergraduate diploma  | 120          | 280            | 400            | 3.4          |
| Associate diploma      | 63           | 24             | 87             | 0.7          |
| Skilled vocational     | 1013         | 52             | 1065           | 9.1          |
| Basic vocational       | 115          | 112            | 227            | 1.9          |
| Inadequately described | 81           | 25             | 106            | 0.9          |
| Not qualified          | 3819         | 3648           | 7467           | 63.6         |
| Not stated             | 1064         | 802            | 1866           | 15.9         |
| Total                  | 6554         | 5206           | 11760          | 100          |
| True table population  |              |                | 0              |              |

**Table 16. Cape York Peninsula, 38 CDs. 1991 Census.  
Status of Worker; Employed Persons.**

|                       | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Persons</u> | <u>Prop%</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Wage or salary earner | 3987         | 2075           | 6062           | 89           |
| Self employed         | 267          | 134            | 401            | 5.9          |
| Employer              | 197          | 93             | 290            | 4.3          |
| Unpaid helper         | 22           | 39             | 61             | 0.9          |
| Total                 | 4473         | 2341           | 6814           | 100          |
| True table population |              |                | 0              |              |

**Table 17. Cape York Peninsula, 38 CDs. 1991 Census.  
Occupations of Employed Persons.**

|                                     | 13.17<br>2000<br>Males | 15.23<br>2000<br>Females | 16.34<br>2000<br>Males | 18.34<br>2000<br>Females | 20.34<br>2000<br>Males | 22.34<br>2000<br>Females | 24.34<br>2000<br>Males | 26.34<br>2000<br>Females | 28.34<br>2000<br>Males | 30.34<br>2000<br>Females | 32.34<br>2000<br>Males | 34.34<br>2000<br>Females | 36.34<br>2000<br>Males | 38.34<br>2000<br>Females | Total<br>Employed | Total<br>Population |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Managers & Administrators           | 4                      | 6                        | 15                     | 32                       | 93                     | 31                       | 337                    | 108                      | 61                     | 412                      | 12                     | 368                      | 601                    | 6.9                      | 4198              |                     |
| Professionals                       | 2                      | 3                        | 12                     | 42                       | 124                    | 104                      | 317                    | 83                       | 34                     | 210                      | 15                     | 331                      | 571                    | 6.5                      |                   |                     |
| Para-professionals                  | 19                     | 8                        | 64                     | 26                       | 112                    | 64                       | 184                    | 63                       | 21                     | 413                      | 12                     | 290                      | 687                    | 8                        |                   |                     |
| Engineers                           | 100                    | 14                       | 163                    | 31                       | 121                    | 44                       | 237                    | 49                       | 76                     | 1003                     | 6                      | 318                      | 1319                   | 14.3                     |                   |                     |
| Clerks                              | 4                      | 34                       | 12                     | 38                       | 33                     | 139                      | 62                     | 134                      | 12                     | 319                      | 39                     | 493                      | 598                    | 6.9                      |                   |                     |
| Sales & personal services workers   | 12                     | 44                       | 18                     | 82                       | 32                     | 144                      | 14                     | 110                      | 1                      | 89                       | 12                     | 107                      | 436                    | 5.1                      |                   |                     |
| Plant & machine operators & drivers | 19                     | 6                        | 31                     | 6                        | 110                    | 7                        | 246                    | 13                       | 28                     | 314                      | 6                      | 31                       | 372                    | 4.3                      |                   |                     |
| Laborers in related occupations     | 108                    | 14                       | 198                    | 22                       | 268                    | 103                      | 763                    | 237                      | 88                     | 8016                     | 33                     | 493                      | 1313                   | 23.3                     |                   |                     |
| Unemployment claimants              | 21                     | 18                       | 43                     | 13                       | 43                     | 21                       | 73                     | 13                       | 22                     | 211                      | 6                      | 64                       | 275                    | 4.1                      |                   |                     |
| Not stated                          | 24                     | 23                       | 46                     | 33                       | 64                     | 33                       | 89                     | 52                       | 26                     | 218                      | 6                      | 163                      | 411                    | 4.2                      |                   |                     |
| Total                               | 372                    | 194                      | 651                    | 332                      | 1376                   | 751                      | 1763                   | 917                      | 378                    | 6416                     | 103                    | 3371                     | 4798                   | 100                      |                   |                     |

Total ill's population

Tables 18 and 19 show individual and household income respectively. While table 18 is for all people over the age of 15 years, the fact that 42% of the population earns less than \$12,000 a year indicates a fairly high level of disadvantage. In the case of households the proportion is as expected much lower, but still indicates 10.7% in poverty. For a mean household size of 4.3 the poverty line would be around \$15,600. Almost 16.7% receive less than this amount. In fact the poverty line is a sliding scale that varies according to the number of children and adults, and the ages of the children. Besides, these numbers and percentages are very likely an underestimate, both as a result of the undercount, and the very high proportion of households that reported a partial income or did not state their income, 27.1% in all.

Table 20 lists the types of families. This a different definition from households, as it excludes single person households. A very large 20.2% are single parent families, while the conventional two parent family with dependent offspring only, accounts for just 36.5% of all families. The categories of other offspring (grown up children) and other related individuals involves 32% of families.

Table 21 provides additional information on the single parent families, as this is the most disadvantaged group and most likely to be in poverty. Of the 600 families recorded in this table, only 41% of the single parents are employed, while 46% are unemployed. This contrasts with the self reporting of those in the CDEP scheme, who appear to have largely classified themselves as employed. This much higher proportion amongst the single parents suggests that many of them are simply reliant on welfare and are not on the CDEP.

Table 22 indicates the main family type in relation to the type of house. Rented housing accounts for 72% of the total housing stock. For single parents renting is the only choice for 82% of families. Only 16.3% of the whole censused population of Cape York Peninsula owns or is purchasing a house. However, at Weipa the company is moving towards selling off its housing stock in a process of normalising the community. In the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities most of the housing is council owned, which having taken control of their own affairs from government, means that in a real sense houses are community owned.

Table 23 cross classifies the type of family with the size of the family. The mean household size of 4.3 is already well over the Australian mean that is around 3 persons. What is particularly interesting is the 22% of families with six or more residents, and 32% of single parent families with six or more. Big families are a feature of Cape York Peninsula.

The structure of dwelling and its relationship to household size in tables 24 and 25 provide information but nothing extraordinary. Table 26 is more interesting in the rate of overcrowding that it indicates. Houses of 0 to 3 bedrooms house 82% of the households. Over 25% of households have 5 or more persons in houses with only 3 or fewer bedrooms.

**Table 18. Cape York Peninsula, 38 CDs. 1991 Census.  
Annual Individual Income, Persons Over 15 Years.**

|                       | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Persons</u> | <u>Prop%</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| \$0-\$3,000           | 330          | 673            | 1003           | 8.5          |
| \$3,001-\$5,000       | 408          | 441            | 849            | 7.2          |
| \$5,001-\$8,000       | 895          | 777            | 1672           | 14.2         |
| \$8,001-\$12,000      | 678          | 750            | 1428           | 12.1         |
| \$12,001-\$16,000     | 382          | 481            | 863            | 7.4          |
| \$16,001-\$20,000     | 499          | 352            | 851            | 7.2          |
| \$20,001-\$25,000     | 530          | 311            | 841            | 7.1          |
| \$25,001-\$30,000     | 487          | 191            | 678            | 5.7          |
| \$30,001-\$35,000     | 382          | 122            | 504            | 4.3          |
| \$35,001-\$40,000     | 332          | 83             | 420            | 3.6          |
| \$40,001-\$50,000     | 266          | 61             | 327            | 2.8          |
| \$50,001-\$60,000     | 162          | 25             | 187            | 1.6          |
| \$60,001-\$70,000     | 52           | 6              | 58             | 0.5          |
| Over \$70,000         | 96           | 11             | 107            | 0.9          |
| Not stated            | 838          | 917            | 1805           | 15.3         |
| Total                 | 6587         | 5206           | 11793          | 100          |
| True table population |              |                | 0              |              |

**Table 19. Cape York Peninsula, 38 CDs. 1991 Census.  
Annual Household Income.**

|                       | <u>Hholds</u> | <u>Prop%</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|
| \$0-\$5,000           | 66            | 1.3          |
| \$5,001-\$10,000      | 21            | 0.5          |
| \$10,001-\$15,000     | 134           | 3            |
| \$15,001-\$20,000     | 185           | 4.7          |
| \$20,001-\$25,000     | 232           | 6            |
| \$25,001-\$30,000     | 271           | 7.1          |
| \$30,001-\$35,000     | 249           | 6.9          |
| \$35,001-\$40,000     | 239           | 6.1          |
| \$40,001-\$45,000     | 209           | 5.7          |
| \$45,001-\$50,000     | 216           | 6            |
| \$50,001-\$55,000     | 240           | 6.7          |
| \$55,001-\$60,000     | 202           | 5.2          |
| \$60,001-\$75,000     | 140           | 3.6          |
| \$75,001-\$100,000    | 100           | 2.3          |
| \$100,001-\$150,000   | 77            | 2            |
| \$150,001-\$225,000   | 61            | 1.6          |
| \$225,001-\$325,000   | 26            | 0.7          |
| Over \$325,000        | 24            | 0.6          |
| Total (Income stated) | 825           | 20.8         |
| % Incomeers stated(%) | 246           | 6.1          |
| Total                 | 1926          | 100          |
| True table population | 0             |              |

- (a) Excludes those dwellings which were temporarily unoccupied at the time of the census but the collector had ascertained that it was normally occupied, or the household contained only persons under 15 years of age.
- (b) Comprises households where at least one, but not all, members aged 15 years or more did not state an income and/or at least one spouse, offspring, or co-tenant was temporarily absent.
- (c) Comprises households where no members present stated an income.

**Table 20. Cape York Peninsula, 38 CDs. 1991 Census.  
Family Type.**

|  | <u>Families</u> | <u>Prop%</u> |
|--|-----------------|--------------|
| One parent families with:                                  |                 |              |
| Dependent offspring only                                   | 292             | 9.7          |
| Dependent offspring & other related individuals only(b)    | 101             | 3.4          |
| Other offspring only(c)                                    | 68              | 2.3          |
| Other offspring & other related individuals only(c)        |                 |              |
| Dependent & other offspring only(b)                        | 18              | 0.6          |
| Dependent & other offspring & other related individuals(b) | 70              | 2.3          |
| Dependent & other offspring & other related individuals(b) | 55              | 1.8          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>604</b>      | <b>20.2</b>  |
| Couples without offspring:                                 |                 |              |
| Couples only   | 606             | 20.2         |
| Couples & other related individuals                        | 58              | 1.9          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>664</b>      | <b>22.2</b>  |
| Two parent families with:                                  |                 |              |
| Dependent offspring only                                   | 1094            | 36.5         |
| Dependent offspring & other related individuals only(d)    | 188             | 6.3          |
| Other offspring only(e)                                    | 129             | 4.3          |
| Other offspring & other related individuals only(c)        |                 |              |
| Dependent & other offspring only(d)                        | 23              | 0.8          |
| Dependent & other offspring & other related individuals(d) | 181             | 6            |
| Dependent & other offspring & other related individuals(d) | 68              | 2.3          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>1683</b>     | <b>56.2</b>  |
| Families of other related individuals only(c)              | 44              | 1.5          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>2995</b>     | <b>100</b>   |
| True table population                                      | 0               |              |

(a) This table provides comparability with the 1986 family classification. Where categories have changed, the footnotes explain the equivalent terminology used in 1986. Full comparability is not possible because the definition of dependent offspring has changed. In 1986, a 'dependent family child' was aged 0-14, or 15-20 years and a full time student, whereas in the 1991 Census, 21-24 year old offspring studying full-time are also defined as dependents.

(b) In the 1986 Census these families were classified as 'one parent families with dependents and related adults'.

(c) In the 1986 Census these families were classified as 'families of related adults only'.

(d) In the 1986 Census these families were classified as 'couples with dependents and related adults'.

(e) In the 1986 Census these families were classified as 'couples with related adults'.

**Table 21. Cape York Peninsula, 38 CDs. 1991 Census.  
Labour Force Status of Single Parent Families.**

|                            | <u>Families</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Employed:                  |                 |
| Part-time                  | 84              |
| Full-time(a)               | 146             |
| Not stated(b)              | 15              |
| Total                      | 245             |
| Unemployed, looking for:   |                 |
| Full-time work (so stated) | 17              |
| Part-time work (so stated) | 14              |
| Total                      | 31              |
| Total labour force         | 276             |
| Not in the labour force    | 281             |
| Not stated(c)              | 43              |
| Total                      | 600             |
| True table population      | 0               |

(a) Full-time is defined as having worked 35 hours or more in the main job held last week.

(b) Comprises families where the sole parent was employed but did not state whether hours worked.

(c) Comprises families where the sole parent did not state his/her labour force status.

**Table 22. Cape York Peninsula, 38 CDs. 1991 Census.  
Family Type by Landlord Type.**

|                                  | <u>Owned</u> | <u>Being<br/>purchased</u> | <u>Rented<br/>Govt</u> | <u>Rented<br/>Other</u> | <u>Rented<br/>Not<br/>stated(b)</u> | <u>Rented<br/>total</u> | <u>Other(c)</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| One parent families:             |              |                            |                        |                         |                                     |                         |                 |              |
| With dependent offspring         | 22           | 3                          | 66                     | 343                     | 15                                  | 424                     | 68              | 517          |
| With no dependent offspring      | 9            | 3                          | 3                      | 61                      | 0                                   | 64                      | 3               | 79           |
| Total                            | 31           | 6                          | 69                     | 404                     | 15                                  | 488                     | 71              | 596          |
| Couples without offspring        | 131          | 25                         | 84                     | 288                     | 17                                  | 389                     | 83              | 628          |
| Two parent families:             |              |                            |                        |                         |                                     |                         |                 |              |
| With dependent offspring         | 181          | 59                         | 174                    | 896                     | 48                                  | 1118                    | 150             | 1508         |
| With no dependent offspring      | 40           | 0                          | 9                      | 83                      | 3                                   | 95                      | 24              | 159          |
| Total                            | 221          | 59                         | 183                    | 979                     | 51                                  | 1213                    | 174             | 1667         |
| Families of other related indivs | 0            | 3                          | 3                      | 24                      | 0                                   | 27                      | 3               | 33           |
| Total                            | 383          | 93                         | 339                    | 1695                    | 83                                  | 2117                    | 331             | 2924         |
| True table population            |              |                            |                        |                         |                                     |                         |                 | 0            |

(a) Nature of occupancy is a dwelling characteristic. In multiple family households, each family has the same nature of occupancy.

(b) Comprises cases where landlord type was not stated.

(c) Comprises tenement inadequately described and not stated.

**Table 23. Cape York Peninsula, 38 CDs. 1991 Census.  
Household Size by Household Type.**

|                                       | <u>1 person<br/>usually<br/>resident</u> | <u>2 persons<br/>usually<br/>resident</u> | <u>3 persons<br/>usually<br/>resident</u> | <u>4 persons<br/>usually<br/>resident</u> | <u>5 persons<br/>usually<br/>resident</u> | <u>6 or more<br/>usually<br/>resident</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|--------------|
| <b>Family households:</b>             |  |   |   |   |   |   |              |
| <b>One family:</b>                    |  |   |   |   |   |   |              |
| One parent families                   | 0  | 20  | 81  | 38  | 45  | 111                                       | 341          |
| Couples without offspring             | 0  | 521                                       | 47  | 12  | 3   | 6   | 599          |
| Two parent families                   | 0  | 0   | 331                                       | 440                                       | 283                                       | 416                                       | 1470         |
| Families of other related individuals | 0  | 18  | 15  | 0   | 6   | 3   | 42           |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>0</b>                                 | <b>619</b>                                | <b>474</b>                                | <b>490</b>                                | <b>335</b>                                | <b>536</b>                                | <b>2654</b>  |
| <b>Two families:</b>                  |  |   |   |   |   |   |              |
| Two families                          | 0  | 0   | 0   | 9   | 27  | 162                                       | 198          |
| <b>Three families:</b>                |  |   |   |   |   |   |              |
| Three families                        | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 47  | 47           |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>0</b>                                 | <b>619</b>                                | <b>474</b>                                | <b>499</b>                                | <b>362</b>                                | <b>745</b>                                | <b>2699</b>  |
| <b>Other households:</b>              |  |   |   |   |   |   |              |
| <b>Group households:</b>              |  |   |   |   |   |   |              |
| Group households                      | 0  | 97  | 32  | 9   | 3   | 9   | 150          |
| <b>Lone person households:</b>        |  |   |   |   |   |   |              |
| Lone person households                | 521                                      | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 521          |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>521</b>                               | <b>97</b>                                 | <b>32</b>                                 | <b>9</b>                                  | <b>3</b>                                  | <b>9</b>                                  | <b>671</b>   |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>521</b>                               | <b>716</b>                                | <b>506</b>                                | <b>508</b>                                | <b>365</b>                                | <b>754</b>                                | <b>3370</b>  |
| True table population                 |  |   |   |   |   |   | 0            |

(1) Includes spouses, offspring, and common-law group households, who were temporarily absent on Census night. A maximum of 3 temporary absentees can be counted in each household.

**Table 24. Cape York Peninsula, 38 CDs. 1991 Census.  
Structure of Dwelling.**

|  | <u>Persons</u> | <u>Prop%</u> |
|--|----------------|--------------|
| Separate house   | 11498          | 74.9         |
| <b>Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse etc:</b> |                |              |
| 1 storey   | 204            | 1.3          |
| 2 or more storeys  | 306            | 2            |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>510</b>     | <b>3.3</b>   |
| <b>Flat or apartment:</b>                                  |                |              |
| In a 1 or 2 storey block                                   | 508            | 3.3          |
| In a 3 storey block  | 0              | 0            |
| In a 4 or more storey                                      | 0              | 0            |
| Attached to house  | 30             | 0.2          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>538</b>     | <b>3.5</b>   |
| <b>Caravan etc in caravan park</b>                         |                |              |
| Caravan not in caravan park, houseboat etc                 | 211            | 1.4          |
| Improvised home, campers out                               | 644            | 4.2          |
| House or flat attached to shop, office etc                 | 131            | 0.9          |
| Not stated   | 830            | 5.4          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>15344</b>   | <b>100</b>   |
| True table population                                      | 0              |              |

**Table 25. Cape York Peninsula, 38 CDs. 1991 Census.  
Household Size by Dwelling Structure.**

|   | <u>1 person</u><br><u>usually</u><br><u>resident</u> | <u>2 persons</u><br><u>usually</u><br><u>resident</u> | <u>3 persons</u><br><u>usually</u><br><u>resident</u> | <u>4 persons</u><br><u>usually</u><br><u>resident</u> | <u>5 persons</u><br><u>usually</u><br><u>resident</u> | <u>6 or more</u><br><u>usually</u><br><u>resident</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|--------------|
| Separate house  | 252  | 425   | 378   | 434   | 319   | 665   | 2473         |
| Semi-detached, row<br>or terrace house,<br>town house etc | 54   | 127   | 24  | 5   | 8   | 6   | 224          |
| Flat or apartment   | 42   | 35  | 26  | 21  | 15  | 20  | 159          |
| Caravan etc in caravan park                               | 47   | 30  | 10  | 13  | 0   | 3   | 103          |
| Other   | 84   | 58  | 20  | 15  | 12  | 23  | 212          |
| Not stated  | 42   | 47  | 33  | 25  | 25  | 42  | 214          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>521</b>   | <b>722</b>  | <b>491</b>  | <b>513</b>  | <b>379</b>  | <b>759</b>  | <b>3385</b>  |
| True table population                                     |  |   |   |   |   |   | 0            |

(a) Spouses, offspring, and co-tenants (in group households) who were temporarily absent on census night are included.  
A maximum of 3 temporary absentees can be counted in each household.

**Table 26. Cape York Peninsula, 38 CDs. 1991 Census.  
Household Size by Number of Bedrooms.**

|                       | <u>1 person</u><br><u>usually</u><br><u>resident</u> | <u>2 persons</u><br><u>usually</u><br><u>resident</u> | <u>3 persons</u><br><u>usually</u><br><u>resident</u> | <u>4 persons</u><br><u>usually</u><br><u>resident</u> | <u>5 persons</u><br><u>usually</u><br><u>resident</u> | <u>6 or more</u><br><u>usually</u><br><u>resident</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-----------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|--------------|
| 0-1 bedrooms          | 190  | 95  | 39  | 28  | 19  | 30  | 401          |
| 2 bedrooms            | 127  | 289   | 120   | 85  | 43  | 70  | 734          |
| 3 bedrooms            | 79   | 233   | 262   | 309   | 206   | 471   | 1560         |
| 4 bedrooms            | 9  | 30  | 44  | 51  | 76  | 128   | 338          |
| 5 or more bedrooms    | 6  | 9   | 9   | 6   | 9   | 20  | 59           |
| Not stated            | 59   | 36  | 12  | 24  | 15  | 53  | 199          |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>470</b>   | <b>692</b>  | <b>486</b>  | <b>503</b>  | <b>368</b>  | <b>772</b>  | <b>3291</b>  |
| True table population |  |   |   |   |   |   | 0            |

(a) Spouses, offspring, and co-tenants (in group households) who were temporarily absent on census night are included.  
A maximum of 3 temporary absentees can be counted in each household.

Table 27 showing vehicle ownership reports 7,164 motor vehicles, or 2.2 vehicles per household. However, there are some strange anomalies in this table that result from the method of self reporting and the system of ABS classification. Comparison with table 20 suggests that there are 249, or 41% of single parent families without a vehicle, 74 couples, or 11% without a car, and 216, or 13% of two parent families without a car. Further anomalies relate to the different set of family definitions, that do not appear in table 20.

Table 28 showing weekly rent indicates generally very low levels, that may go some of the way to counteracting the poverty that is experienced by a significant number of families.

In summary, the census tables indicate a relatively poor population, largely unqualified, and dependent on an economic base that is dominated by administration. The age structure was more like that of a developing country than developed, household size and house occupancy levels are high, and single parent families make up 20% of households. Unemployment was 8.4% of the labour force in 1991, although most people on the CDEP projects declared themselves to be employed on community work, although many seem also to have classified their employer as the private sector. The high unemployment rates are, however, reflected in the generally low income levels. This overall assessment of the population of Cape York Peninsula was unable to aggregate the census data on sector of employment and main occupations, owing to an error in the software. These data were accessible in graphed, database and mapped forms and are presented in the next section. It is the graph in Figure 29 that indicates high proportions of private sector employment in nearly all Collection Districts, while the occupations graph in Figure 37 shows very few people to be employed in agriculture, but large numbers on community projects. Mining was also highly significant at Weipa (obviously), with small numbers of miners in a few other Collection Districts such as Hopevale. Essentially, these data underline the narrow, underdeveloped economic base of Cape York Peninsula and its dependence on welfare, CDEP and administration.

**Table 27. Cape York Peninsula, 38 CDs. 1991 Census.  
Number of Vehicles by Household Type.**

|                                       | <u>1</u><br><u>motor</u><br><u>vehicle</u> | <u>2</u><br><u>motor</u><br><u>vehicles</u> | <u>3</u><br><u>motor</u><br><u>vehicles</u> | <u>4</u><br><u>motor</u><br><u>vehicles</u> | <u>Not stated</u><br><u>motor</u><br><u>vehicles</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|--------------|
| <b>Family households</b>              |  |   |   |   |  |              |
| One family-                           |  |   |   |   |  |              |
| One parent families                   | 204  | 77  | 32  | 12  | 30   | 355          |
| Couples without offspring             | 123  | 274   | 151   | 30  | 12   | 590          |
| Two parent families                   | 385  | 557   | 245   | 137   | 43   | 1467         |
| Families of other related individuals |  |   |   |   |  |              |
|                                       | 22   | 6   | 12  | 0   | 3  | 43           |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>734</b>                                 | <b>914</b>                                  | <b>540</b>                                  | <b>179</b>                                  | <b>88</b>  | <b>2455</b>  |
| Two families                          |  |   |   |   |  |              |
|                                       | 115  | 46  | 12  | 3   | 11   | 187          |
| Three families                        |  |   |   |   |  |              |
|                                       | 23   | 21  | 3   | 6   | 3  | 56           |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>872</b>                                 | <b>981</b>                                  | <b>555</b>                                  | <b>188</b>                                  | <b>102</b>   | <b>2698</b>  |
| <b>Other households</b>               |  |   |   |   |  |              |
| Group households                      |  |   |   |   |  |              |
|                                       | 44   | 53  | 32  | 5   | 15   | 150          |
| Lone person households                |  |   |   |   |  |              |
|                                       | 186  | 218   | 31  | 15  | 64   | 514          |
| Visitors only                         |  |   |   |   |  |              |
|                                       | 61   | 257   | 47  | 24  | 133  | 542          |
| Not classifiable(b)                   |  |   |   |   |  |              |
|                                       | 9  | 3   | 3   | 3   | 89   | 107          |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>320</b>                                 | <b>531</b>                                  | <b>113</b>                                  | <b>48</b>                                   | <b>301</b>   | <b>1313</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>1191</b>                                | <b>1512</b>                                 | <b>668</b>                                  | <b>236</b>                                  | <b>403</b>   | <b>4811</b>  |
| <b>True table population</b>          |  |   |   |   |  | <b>0</b>     |

(a) Includes caravans etc in caravan parks.

(b) Consists of those dwellings which were temporarily unoccupied at the time of the census, but the collector had ascertained that it was normally occupied, or the household contained only persons under 15 years of age.

**Table 28. Cape York Peninsula, 38 CDs. 1991 Census.  
Weekly Rent by Dwelling Type.**

|                              | <u>C'vans etc</u><br><u>in caravan</u><br><u>parks(d)</u> | <u>Prop%</u> | <u>Other</u><br><u>occupied</u><br><u>private</u><br><u>dwellings</u> | <u>Prop%</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Prop%</u> |
|------------------------------|---|--------------|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| \$0-\$47                     | 41  | 40.6         | 1181  | 53.8         | 1222         | 53.2         |
| \$48-\$77                    | 35  | 34.7         | 633   | 28.8         | 668          | 29.1         |
| \$78-\$107                   | 6   | 5.9          | 178   | 8.1          | 184          | 8            |
| \$108-\$137                  | 3   | 3            | 42  | 1.9          | 45           | 2            |
| \$138-\$167                  | 0   | 0            | 17  | 0.8          | 17           | 0.7          |
| \$168-\$197                  | 0   | 0            | 6   | 0.3          | 6            | 0.3          |
| \$198-\$227                  | 0   | 0            | 3   | 0.1          | 3            | 0.1          |
| \$228-\$267                  | 0   | 0            | 3   | 0.1          | 3            | 0.1          |
| \$268-\$307                  | 0   | 0            | 3   | 0.1          | 3            | 0.1          |
| \$308-\$347                  | 0   | 0            | 0   | 0            | 0            | 0            |
| \$348-\$397                  | 0   | 0            | 0   | 0            | 0            | 0            |
| \$398-\$447                  | 0   | 0            | 0   | 0            | 0            | 0            |
| \$448-\$497                  | 0   | 0            | 3   | 0.1          | 3            | 0.1          |
| Over \$497                   | 0   | 0            | 6   | 0.3          | 6            | 0.3          |
| Not stated                   | 16  | 15.8         | 120   | 5.5          | 136          | 5.9          |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>101</b>  | <b>100</b>   | <b>2195</b>   | <b>100</b>   | <b>2296</b>  | <b>100</b>   |
| <b>True table population</b> |   |              |   |              | <b>0</b>     |              |

(d) Weekly rent was not captured for caravans etc in caravan parks in previous censuses.

## 5. THE SPATIAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC PATTERNS OF THE POPULATION

Analysis of the spatial variations on Cape York Peninsula is mainly based on the 38 Collection Districts. In this report, these differences are highlighted as examples of spatial patterns and differences between communities. A combination of maps and graphs are used. The graphs have been compiled from the original ABS Cdata in Mapinfo format, because they underline variations much more effectively than the maps. The maps are all in Arcinfo format and suffer from the limitation of scale. This has already been discussed at the beginning of this report. At the scale of the whole of Cape York Peninsula the small communities where everyone lives do not show up. At the larger scale necessary to see these places, the maps tend to become meaningless. All of the Collection District maps have been reproduced to illustrate where the places actually are.

This report is a summary and analysis of the population database, which is not included here. The main database of population variables itemised by each of the 38 Collection Districts was produced in a printed form in Progress report number 1, with some omitted variables included in Progress Report number 2. In these two reports the original Collection District and community maps were also included, and have been reproduced here for information and comparison. However, the whole population database, of several hundred variables, plus the Collection District map and the base community map are available in Arcinfo format on disk. This section of the report will, therefore, only deal with a selection of significant variables.

### 5.1 Population and Ethnicity

The populations of the communities are graphed in figure 17 from the 1994 community count. This excludes the entirely rural Collection Districts. There is a distinct hierarchy in population; the three towns of Thursday Island, Weipa and Cooktown, then a level of large communities, from Hopevale, Bamaga, Napranum, Aurukun and Kowanyama, down to the lowest level of places, consisting of two groups, the smaller indigenous communities and the small mixed communities. Figures 18 and 20 map the distributions respectively of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people. The dominance of the sparsely populated rural Collection Districts distorts the true distribution, although the two maps do indicate the very different patterns of their distribution; the Torres Strait Islanders much more concentrated than the Aboriginal population. However, there is a mixture of both groups in many communities, though especially those at the tip of Cape York Peninsula.

The graph, figure 19, shows the percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people in each of the 38 Collection Districts. This clearly highlights those communities that are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island from those which are mixed, or primarily non Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island. In fact only 5 of the 38 Collection Districts could truly be described as racially mixed. These five include the two Collection Districts of Thursday Island. The pattern of Cape York Peninsula is thus one of distinct racial separation.

# Cape York Peninsula: Towns and Communities

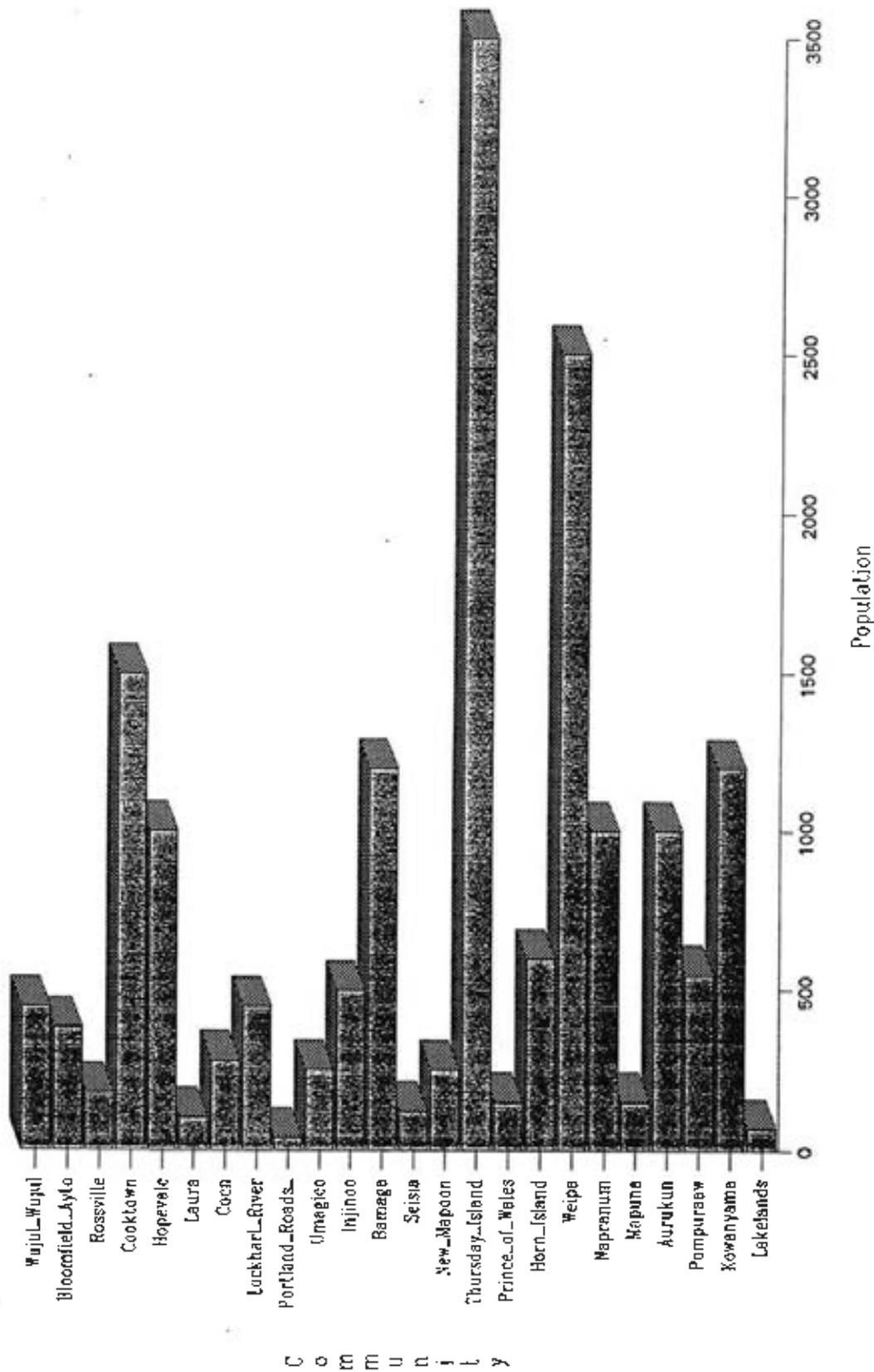


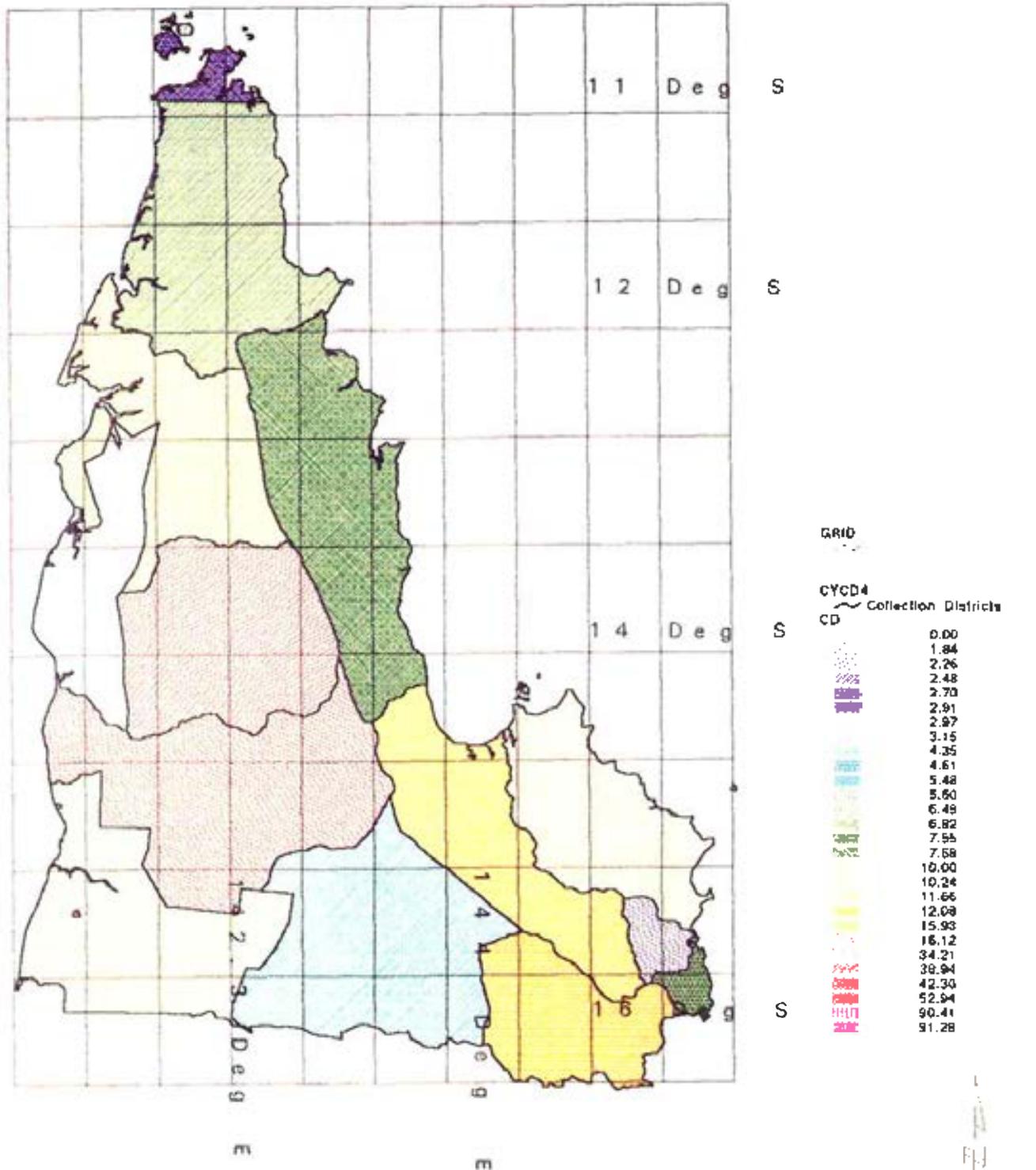
Figure 17

# Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy

## CYPLUS

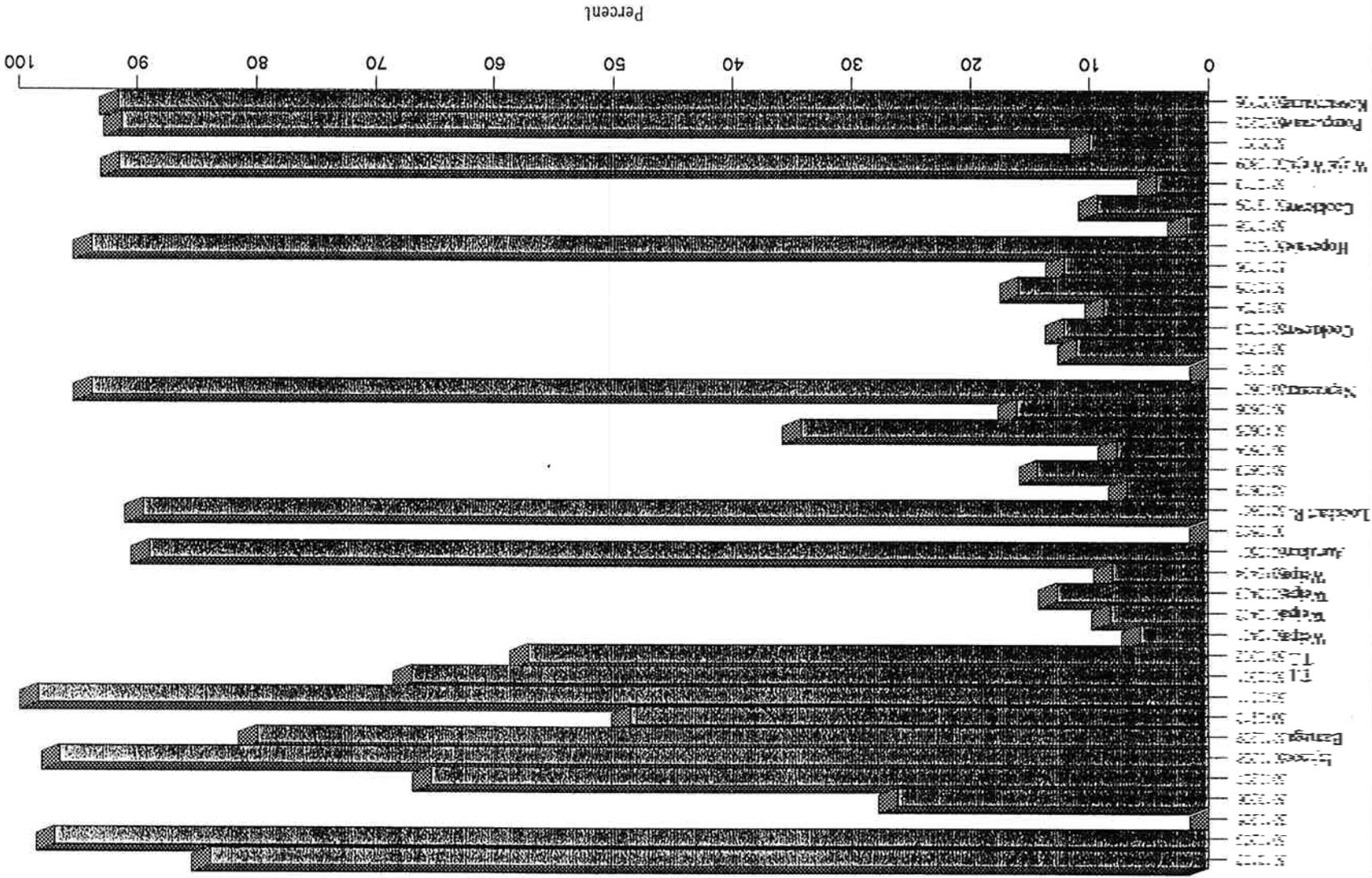
Figure 18. Percent of the Population of Aboriginal Descent

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Percent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island People by C.D.

Cape York Peninsula



cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy

Figure 20.

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Percent of the Population of Torres Strait Islander Descent

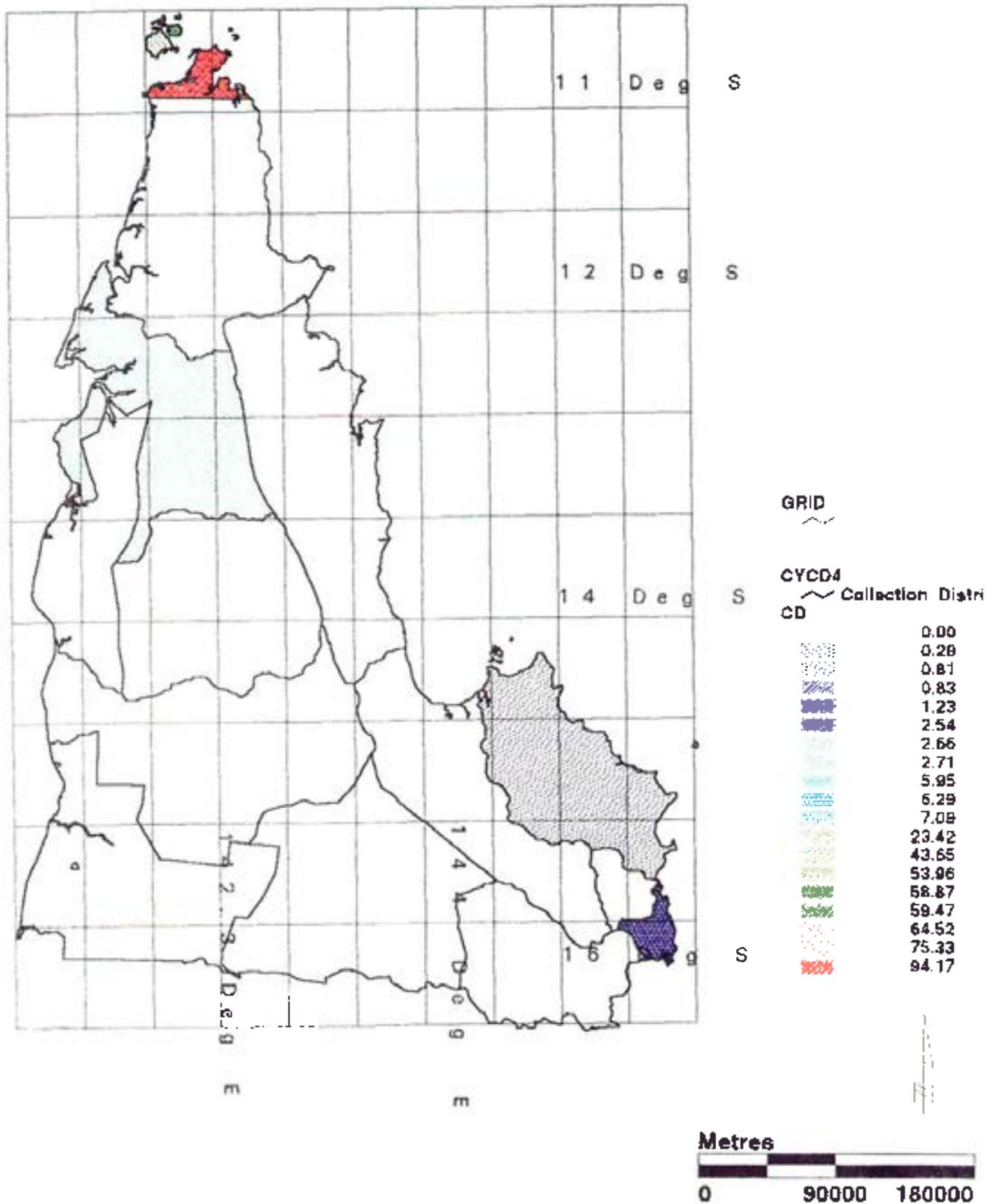
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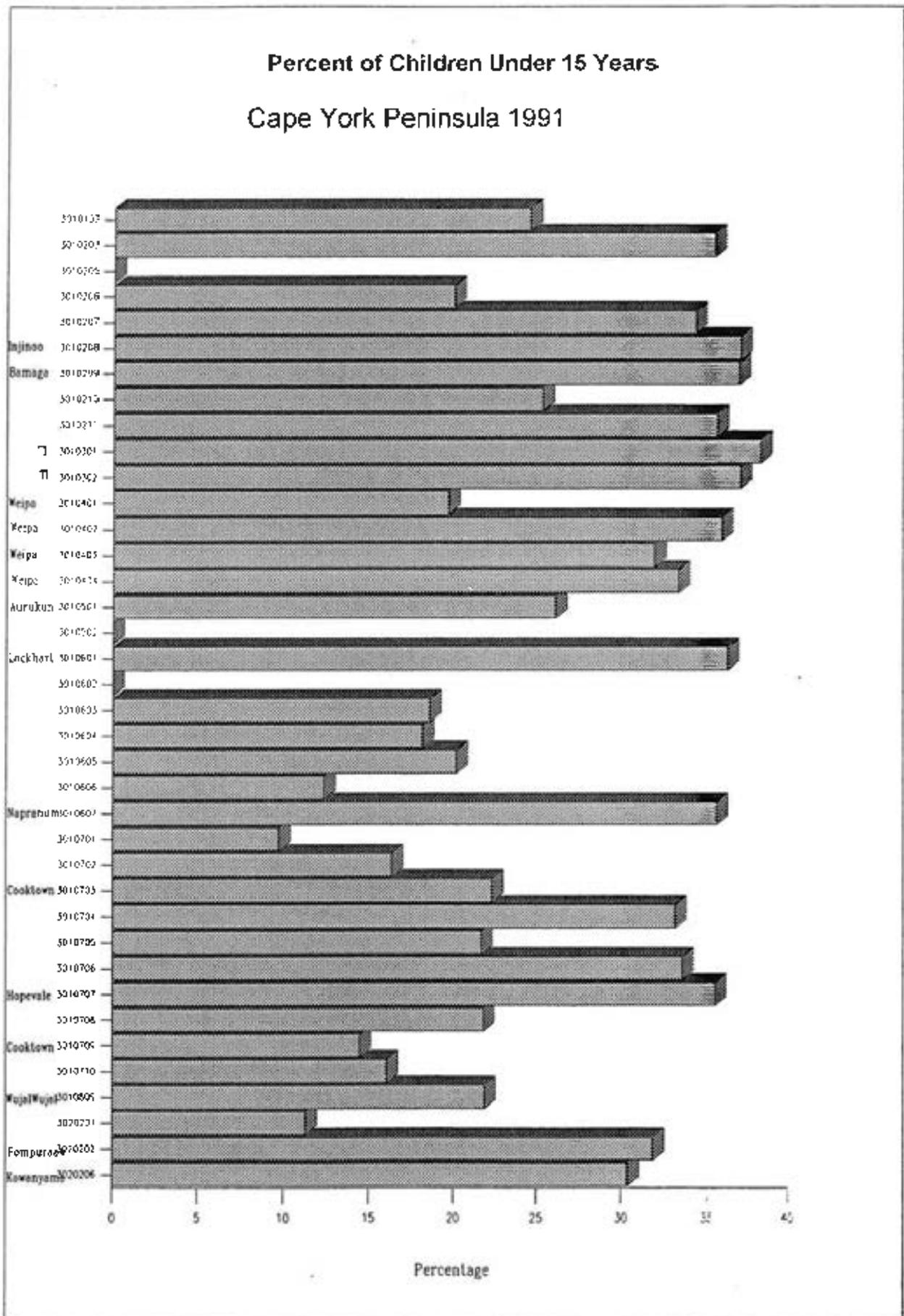


Figure 21.

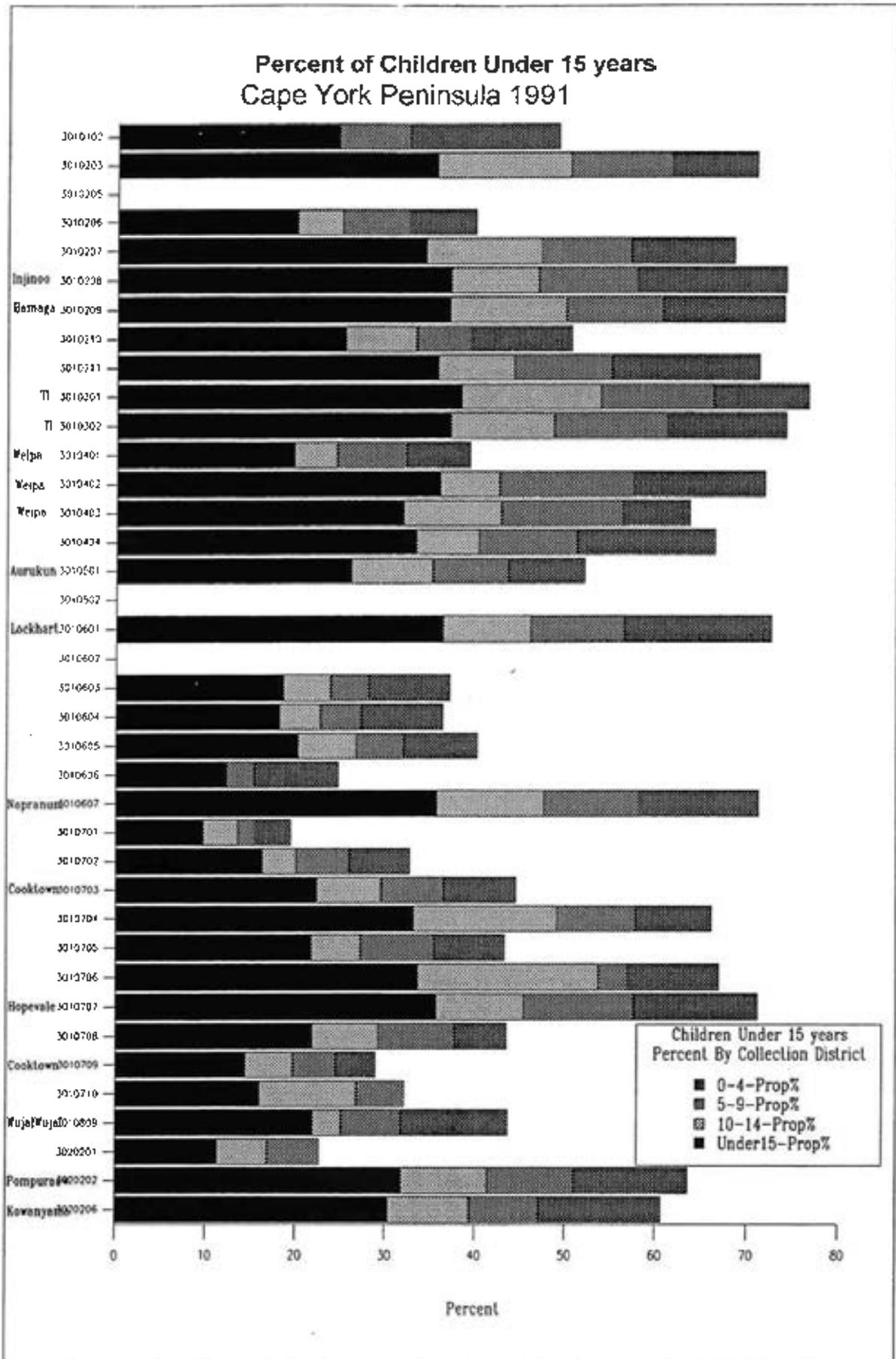


Figure 22.

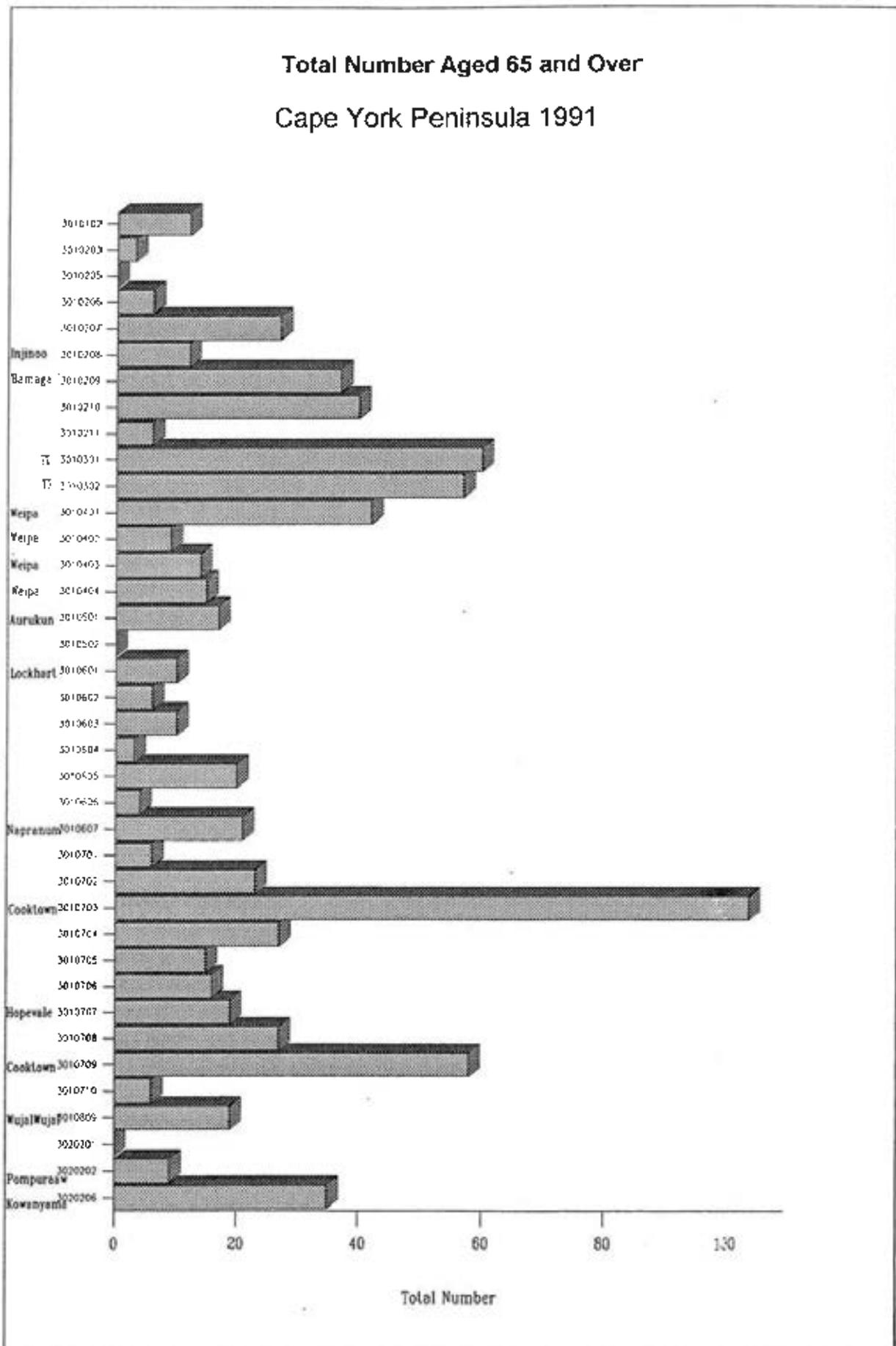


Figure 23.

The high proportion of children on Cape York Peninsula has already been pointed out. The graphs in figures 21 and 22 show both the concentration of children and the proportions of each age cohort in the different communities. There is no place that has a significant imbalance of any of the three age cohorts that make up the 0 to 14 years population. As would be expected from the earlier analysis of population growth, under 15 year olds generally make up a higher proportion in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities, with Thursday Island leading the way.

There is a surprising number of over 65 year olds in the predominantly youthful population of Thursday Island. However, figure 23 shows total numbers in order to highlight where the services for older people are going to be needed most. Thursday Island is the largest town in the region hence its number of older people. It is Cooktown that far outstrips all other places, underlining its role as a retirement place. It is our belief that as communications improve, this role of Cooktown will increase, and that the aged population will grow both in absolute numbers as well as proportionately.

## 5.2 Migrants and Visitors

Both in migrants and visitor numbers are increasing. This has been the primary argument behind the analysis of population growth. The graph, figure 24, shows those places that have experienced the greatest in migration. Thursday Island and Weipa have the largest numbers of migrants on account of their much greater size than the rest of the Cape York Peninsula communities. However, these total numbers represent around half the population of Weipa and a third of Thursday Island. While Weipa's case is part of the pattern of mine employment, on short term contracts, in Thursday Island's case it is much more likely the result of return migration, as there is not a highly mobile employment base. The main component of migration, though, is mobility and this will be examined later.

Both the map, figure 25 and the graph, figure 26, record the total numbers of visitors. There are two obvious observations from these figures. Firstly visitors are primarily not going to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities, suggesting that the majority of the visitors are in fact tourists. Table 8 showed that 17% of visitors were from the same Statistical Local Area, and thus were probably dominantly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people. Of the other 2,154 visitors, 59% were from elsewhere in Queensland. While some of these may also have been Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders the returns from tourist sites and National Parks suggest similar proportions of Queenslanders, between 37% and 84% at various locations. The likelihood is that most of the visitors are tourists who are visiting parts of the Peninsula outside the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities.

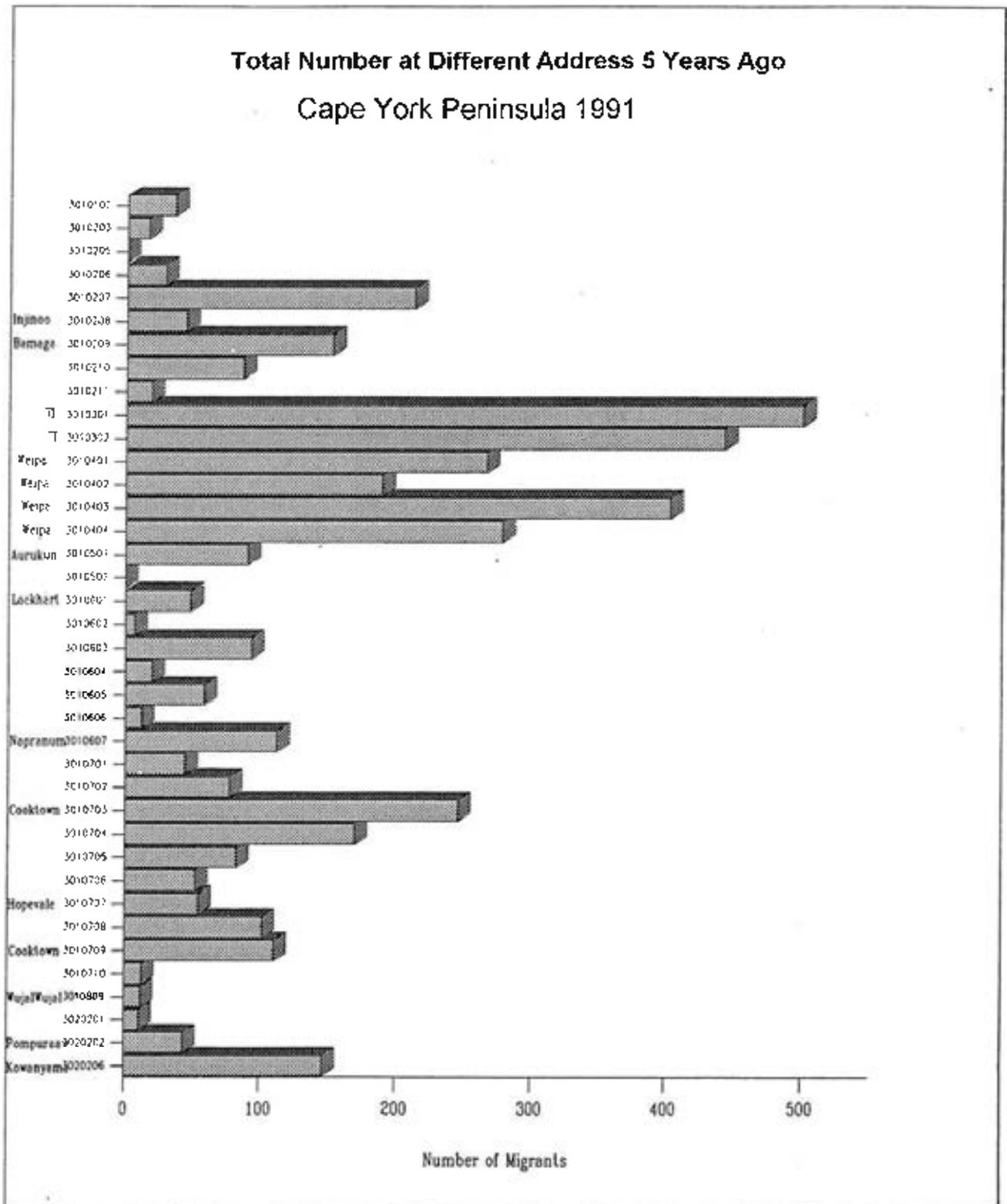


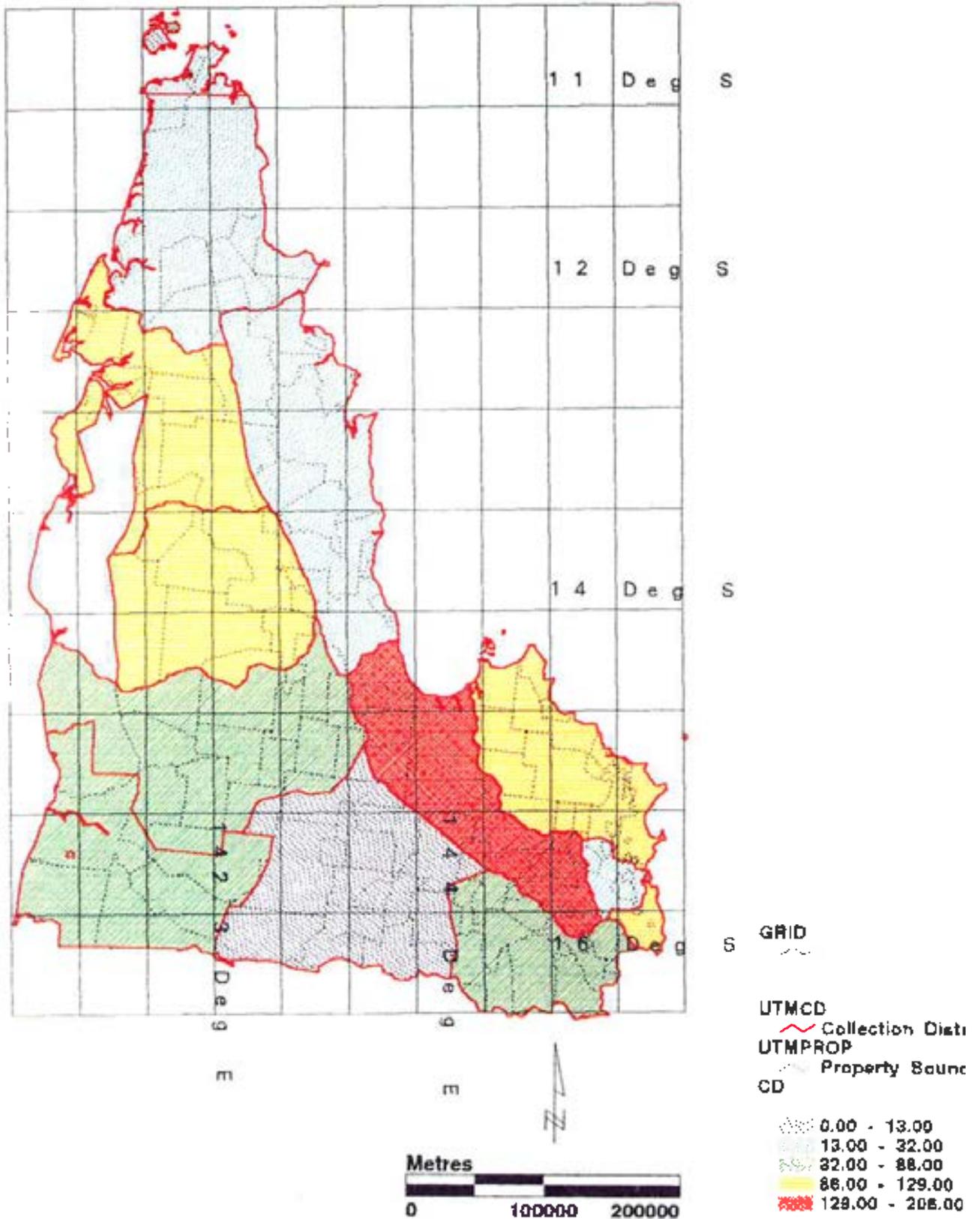
Figure 24.

# Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy

## CYPLUS

Figure 25. Total Numbers of Visitors

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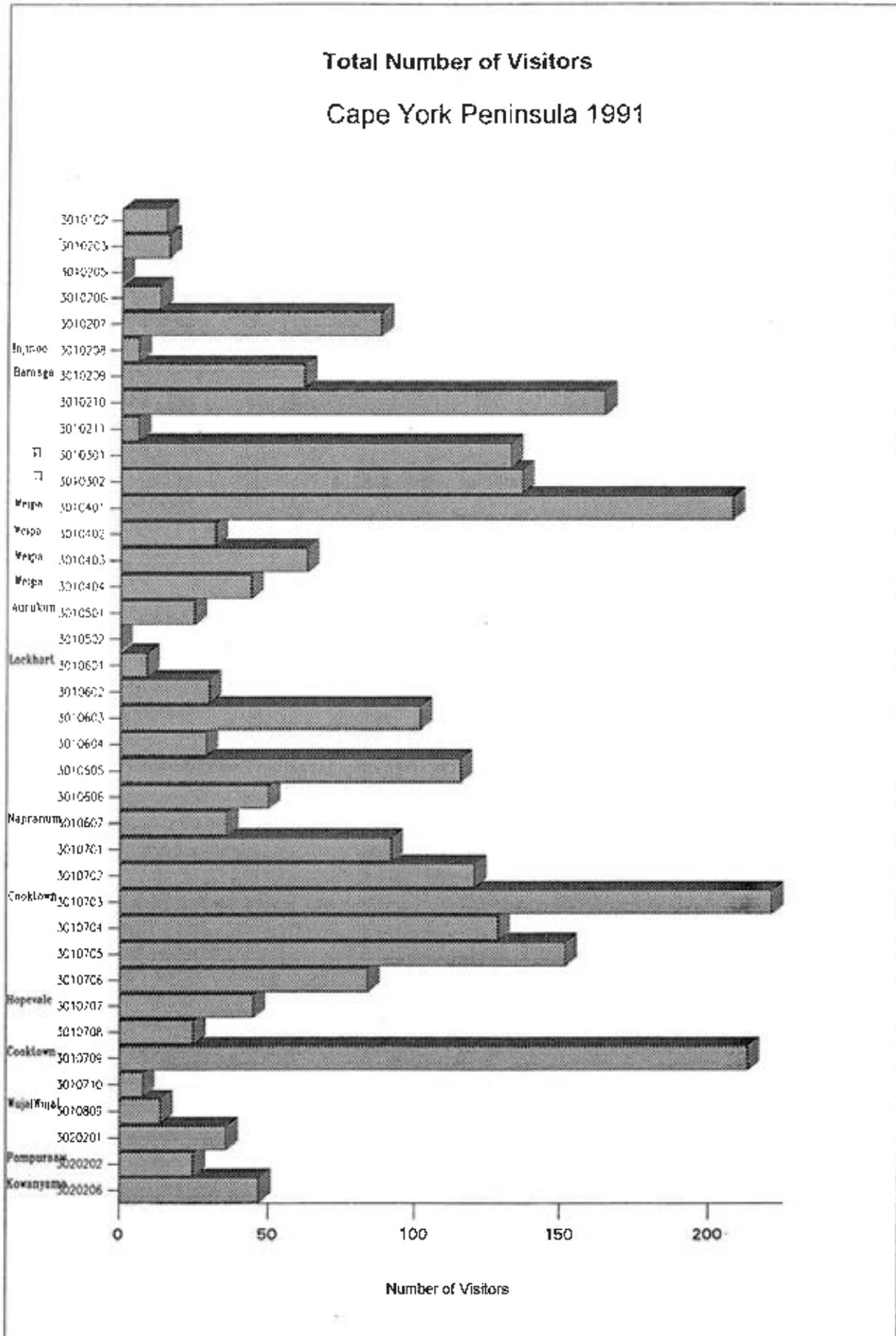


Figure 26.

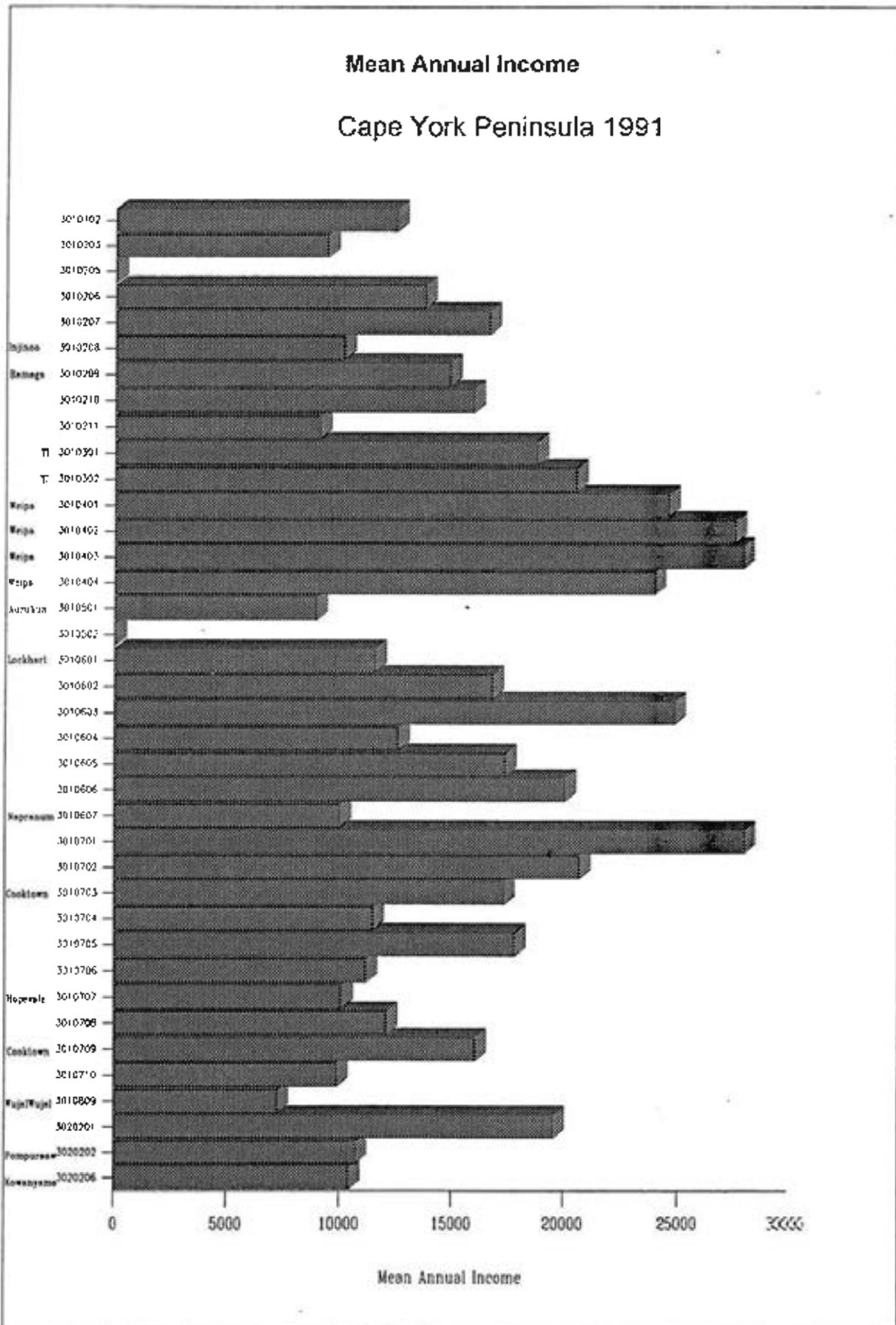


Figure 27.

Figure 28

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Percent of the Population Employed in the Public and Defence Sectors

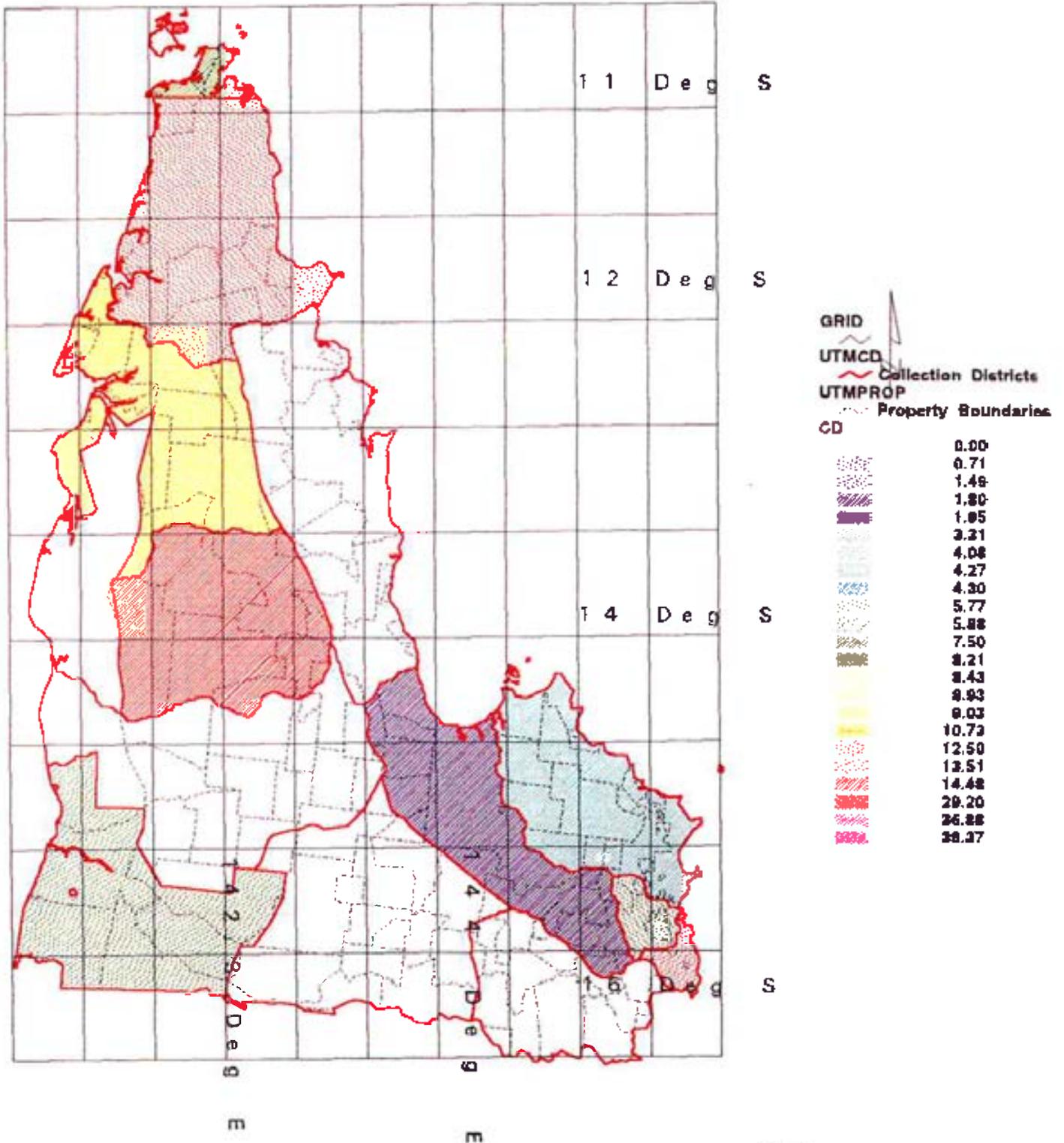
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The second observation is that numbers of visitors generally decrease with distance northwards, with some concentrations. One area is from the east coast through Cooktown to Lakefield. Another area of concentration is the central Peninsula area to Weipa. Outside this corridor, numbers fall off. It seems probable that there are staged destinations. Large numbers come up the coast road from Cape Tribulation to Cooktown, or similarly up the inland road to Cooktown, and go no further. Another route is from either of these, on to Lakefield, and no further, and from any of these locations and routes on up the Peninsula to further protected areas and Weipa. The road beyond the Weipa turn off probably deters those who are limited for time or less equipped or self reliant, rather than the \$80 ferry fee across the Jardine River. Anyway the census figures pre date the raising of the ferry fee, and the pattern is quite clear then that most people were not proceeding to the tip of Cape York Peninsula.

The problem then arises as to the reliability of the census data. As far as the previous two observations are concerned, the census is most likely reliable, even if it represents a sample of the visitors. It is very probable that the census missed people who were camped in remote locations or even on some more accessible campsite, but as the census forms are distributed in advance of the census and collected afterwards, there is a probability that many people will still have complied with the census on return from trips. The population is generally co-operative with the census. There are sound social, political and cultural reasons while larger numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people may not have co-operated, but the same reasons do not apply to the non-indigenous population. Thus while the census will have missed some tourists it is unlikely to be totally unrepresentative.

There were around 2,500 visitors, of whom 2,000 might be formal tourists during the height of the tourist season. For Lakefield, for example, August constituted 13% of total visitors in a tourist season of no more than eight months. If we assume an average stay on Cape York Peninsula of two weeks, this census figure could be projected proportionately to 32,000 people per eight month tourist season. This is very conservative, but we do not know how long people stay in the region. There are only records of length of stay for individual camp sites and national parks. The claim by a town councillor at Cooktown that up to 1,200 tourists may stay each night at the peak times, seems very enthusiastic, given both the size of Cooktown and the actual number, just over 400 on census night, even if tourist numbers in August are lower than other months. However, the actual estimates are mid January to end of March 100 a day, end of March to beginning of June 300 a day, beginning of June to mid October 1,200 a day, mid October to mid December 400 a day, mid December to mid January 800 a day. Of these 65% are estimated to be campers, and most stay one night.

The Weipa campground estimate of 9,000 people a year, with an average two night stay, would project backwards (assuming either an equal proportion of one eighth, or 13%) to 75 to 78 persons per night. The campground is not the only place to stay, but this figure would be very conservative alongside the census.

The problem is that only the National Parks Service is keeping accurate records of visitor numbers, and these are only site specific; ie. They probably count the same people moving between several sites. Our experience was that several operators did not even know their own visitor numbers. Tourism appears to be haphazardly organised, unplanned and unfocussed. Table 29 records data from National Parks informants of annual visitor numbers at selected locations, for a period that varies from 1990 to 1993, according to whenever the last count was collated. Partial figures and guesses (like the Cooktown estimates) have not been included.

**Table 29. Visitor Estimates on Cape York Peninsula Selected Locations Between 1990 and 1993**

| Location                      | Estimates Per Year              |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Lakefield 12 mile             | 999                             |
| Lakefield Kennedy Bend        | 361                             |
| Lakefield Kalpower etc        | 2,488                           |
| Lakefield Hann River Crossing | 1,176                           |
| Lakefield Orange Plain etc    | 307                             |
| Lakefield Basin Hole etc      | 36                              |
| Lakefield Annie River etc     | 62                              |
| Lakefield Saltwater etc       | 221                             |
| Lakefield Meleuca             | 92                              |
| Lakefield Hamush etc          | 358                             |
| Lakefield Mick Finn etc       | 329                             |
| Lakefield Gravelly etc        | 453                             |
| Lakefield 6 Mile/Old Laura    | 120                             |
| Lakefield Horseshoe etc       | 122                             |
| Lakefield Bizant River        | 85                              |
| Lakefield Remote areas        | 185                             |
| Split Rock Laura              | 880                             |
| Weipa                         | 9,000                           |
| Rokeby                        | 400                             |
| Coen Camp                     | 3,100                           |
| Claudie River                 | 774                             |
| Iron Range                    | 224                             |
| Jardine River Camp            | 61                              |
| Jardine River/Heathlands      | 27,490 (8,085 vehicles)         |
| Jardine River Ferry           | 27,485 (1990)<br>8,000 vehicles |

Source: National Parks service, Coen. Fieldwork.

While all the available evidence suggests an increase in visitor numbers, steadily throughout the 1980's and rapidly in the 1990's, there are no sets of data sufficiently reliable to estimate the real growth rate, and tourist operators seem quite happy to make optimistic rather than conservative estimates. We also encountered very mixed reactions and expectations concerning visitors. The most obvious contrast is between commercial tourist ventures and conservationists, but the most interesting contrast we recorded was between neighbouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities Seisia and Injinoo. Injinoo Council was responsible for raising the ferry fare over the Jardine River, and sees its actions and its role as being responsibly conservationist, controlling visitor numbers in order to protect the environment and character of the area. Seisia Council on the other hand retorts that it is all very well for them to charge a high fee, make a good profit and restrict tourist numbers, but they, Seisia, rely on tourists for a living on account of the tiny area of land that they control. Seisia's belief that the higher ferry fare has deterred tourists, to their detriment, and Injinoo's belief that the higher fare has done nothing to deter visitors, sums up the strong differences in opinion about both the higher fare, and control of visitors.

In summary the census is only a snapshot of the population on one day. It shows the spatial distribution of visitors on that day, and can be used with some reliability in that respect. It

tells us nothing of the pattern over time and cannot, therefore, be used to make projections. Unfortunately neither can the existing estimates, both because they are only a partial coverage of Cape York Peninsula and because of the lack of comparable figures gathered over a period of time. If Cape York Peninsula is to benefit from tourism and to plan for this activity, a proper system of data collection needs to be put in place by an appropriate organisation.

A system of collection of visitor statistics could easily be put in place. This would operate at three levels; the collection and collation of all visitor statistics, by month for each overnight stopping place on the Peninsula, complete records of Jardine River crossers, aircraft passengers, and censuses at roadside locations.

Overnight stopping places includes every formal campsite, national park, hotel, lodge and pub on the Peninsula. These places must be licensed and must, therefore, be required, as a condition of their operations, to submit monthly returns of visitors, persons and vehicles, number of nights stay etc., and ideally, the place of residence of each visitor.

Both the Jardine River Ferry and the airports on the Peninsula are easily capable of recording and submitting monthly returns of visitor numbers by direction of flow. A receipt is issued for everyone crossing the Jardine. For air passengers, a slightly more delicate issue needs to be negotiated with airline authorities, but the passenger place of residence, and origin and destination information is recorded for every flight. The data are available, but will not be released to the general public. An official organisation on the Peninsula should be capable of obtaining these data.

Roadside censuses are difficult, because they require vehicles to be stopped in order to separate locals from visitors. Road blocks can be offensive, and would require police permission. However, such a census need only be carried out occasionally, and is aimed primarily at sorting and complementing the other two forms of data collection. The best single site for the far northern traffic is Wenlock River, as almost all vehicles stop there anyway. The Weipa turn off is not a good site, so that compromises might be at Coen, the Bloomfield River, and an appropriate point between the beginning of the Peninsula Developmental Road, beyond Mount Molloy, and the turn off to Cooktown. The census, carried out on one day every month or two, need only record the usual place of residence of travellers, their journey point of origin, destination and expected stay on the Peninsula. If it is made clear that this is for planning the tourist development of the Peninsula, there should be few objections.

### **5.3 Economic Characteristics of the Cape York Peninsula Population**

Generally the people of Cape York Peninsula are poor. This is a result of the underdeveloped economic base of the region, and consequently high unemployment rates in different locations. The mean annual income was calculated in a rather round about way and is indicated in figure 27. The census data does not include average incomes, but groups the population into categories. These were shown in tables 18 and 19 for the whole of Cape York Peninsula. To make this comparison between communities, the mid range of each income category was multiplied by the population in that category, aggregated, and divided by the total income earning population (excluding significant numbers of not stated). Some of the rural Collection Districts are very small in population, so that the high incomes of a few people can distort what may otherwise be a low mean income.



Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy

Figure 30.

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Percent of the Population Employed in Community Work

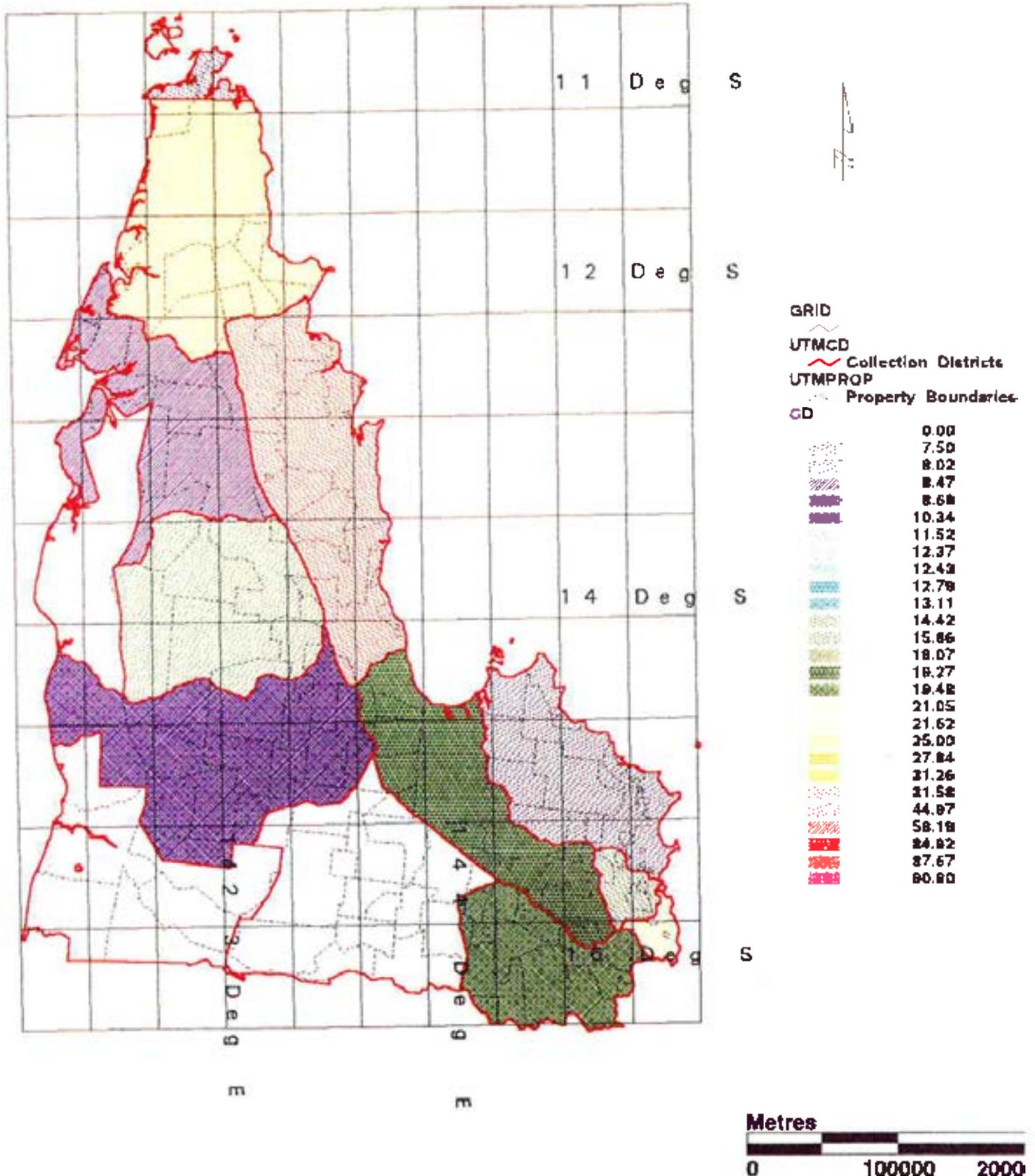
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COMBOST 1/10/94 1000



## Main Occupations Cape York Peninsula 1991

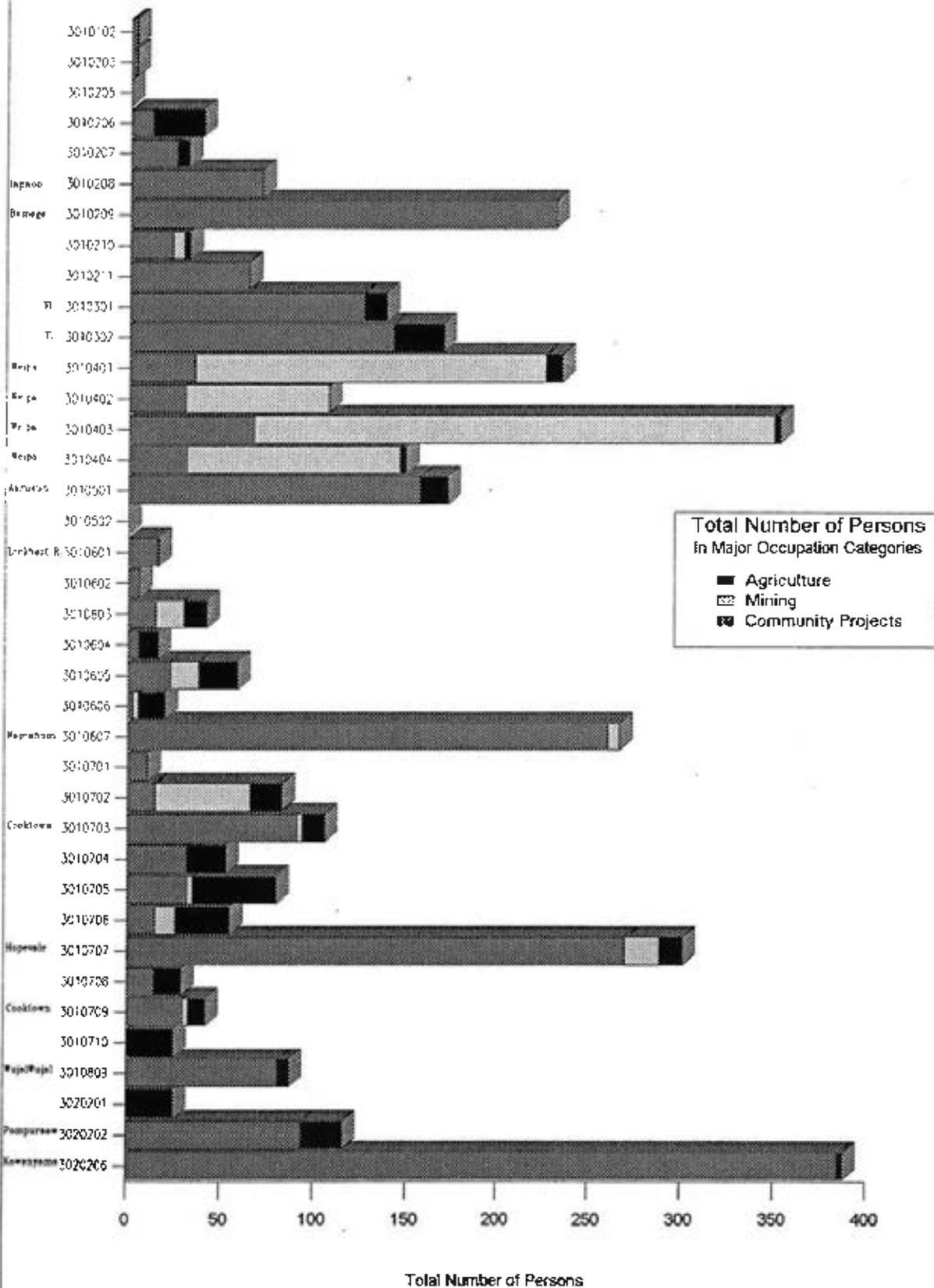


Figure 31.

# Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy

Figure 32.

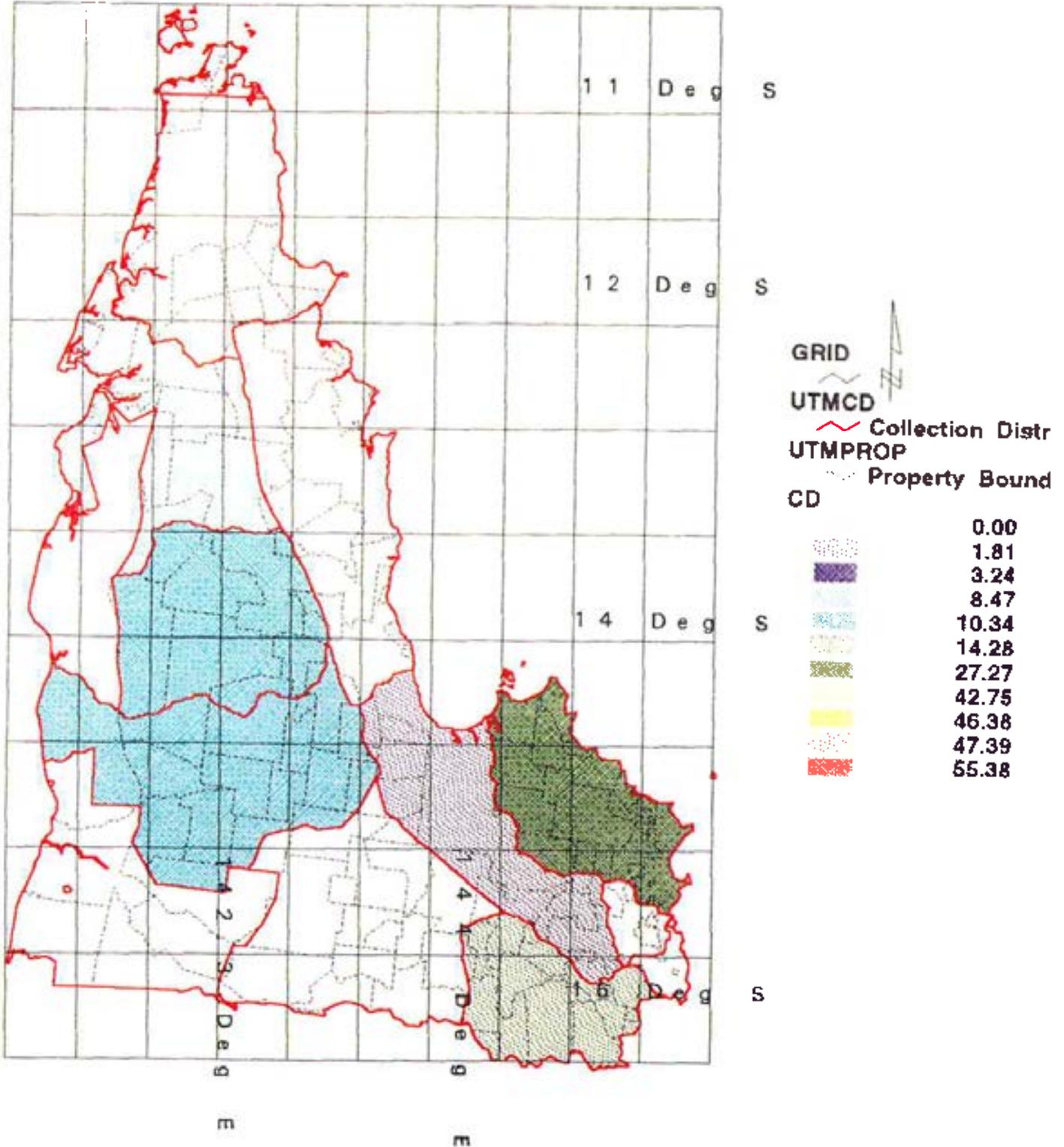
## CYPLUS

### Percent of the Population Employed in the Mining Industry

CYPLUS is a joint initiative of the Department and Commonwealth Departments

NOTES:

Figures are obtained by CYPLUS by the Census of Applied Economic Research and Limited Current Census Data (1991) for the region. Figures are based on the 1991 Census Data.



Weipa achieves a mean income that corresponds to the average in North Queensland urban areas, and in fact is above average. What is disturbing is that the average income per person in most of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities is just on the poverty line. Some places are below. Even allowing for inaccurate reporting, a proportional boosting of these low figures would still keep them extremely low.

Fieldwork interviews around Cape York Peninsula showed us the dependence of many communities on welfare and the CDEP scheme. These payments are low, hence the low mean incomes. What is unusual is that the census question on sector of employment shows, that most people in most places recorded their employer as private enterprise. Thus neither the map, figure 28, nor the graph, figure 29, really illustrate the economic dependence on government and council organisations. The questions on type of occupation do though. As is usually the case, the map cannot show the small communities, but in the graph, the dominant area of employment in most places was on community projects. The graph shows the three single major employment areas, agriculture, mining and community projects. A number of lesser areas, added up and grouped as general service activities emerge as one of the major forms of employment, but here are illustrated the primary activities. Agriculture is very much a minor activity, dominant in only a few very small rural Collection Districts. Mining employs far more people than agriculture, while the community projects occupy the majority. The final map, figure 32, shows where some of these miners are located, but does not capture the urban concentrations. In all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities, the community project work is absolutely dominant. Not only is agriculture only important in a small number of Collection Districts, these Collection Districts are also very small in population size, so that agriculture remains relatively insignificant, even where it is dominant. Mining is highly concentrated, almost entirely in Weipa.

## 6. MOBILITY

Migration, social connectivity and the economic reality of life on Cape York Peninsula are all to a certain extent driven by the mobility of the population. There is no census data on mobility, and no overall data from any other source. Most of what is known of mobility is described and analysed, but not counted. Some geographers and anthropologists have carried out extremely detailed mobility studies of small communities, telling us a great deal about the processes involved, but to my knowledge no such specific study has been carried out on Cape York Peninsula. John Taylor's studies of the Edward River community (Pormpuraaw) contribute a great deal to this knowledge.

What is presented here then is not a statistical analysis of mobility and seasonal and special event movements, but a model of the way in which population mobility operates on Cape York Peninsula. To put this pattern into context I will firstly summarise our fieldwork notes for each of the main communities. The outstations, and their populations at the time of the community population survey, have already been summarised in table 1. Some of the patterns of mobility that were mentioned in some communities, but not in others, such as Easter and Christmas gatherings, are common to all communities.

1. Wujal Wujal. The outstations contain small numbers of people, basically a couple of families and ringers, who are dependent on the main community. This is the case for most of the outstations. Some families are resident at Mossman, as well as further places, and a great deal of movement occurs at Christmas and Easter.

2. Hopevale. CDEP migration occurs, with people transferring their rights on movement. Outstations function as pastoral properties, but involve very small numbers. Movement in and out of the community, and to the outstations occurs on long weekends. A small number of people involved in mining at Cape Flattery also move back and forth between the mine site and Hopevale.

3. Laura. The festival takes place every two years (not in 1994) in June, attracting around 4,000 people who stay for around one and a half weeks. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people at Laura make day, weekend and week long trips primarily to Lakefield and nearby locations for fishing. The races and rodeo occur in the first weekend in July, and Laura people also frequent the race meetings in Cooktown, Coen and Hopevale.

4. Lockhart River. Outstations contain small numbers and are also used by residents of the main community for fishing and hunting trips on long weekends or for a week or so at a time. A sports day takes place in October when about 200 additional people come into the community.

5. Umagico. People have ties with Lockhart River, from which the community was founded, and with folk in Coen and Injinoo. CDEP movement occurs between communities, and housing may be available to people after a minimum 6 months residency. Church events bring up to 200 people into the community, while tombstone openings, weddings and funerals involve the visitation of significant numbers of family at irregular times. The majority of the community travels down to the Laura festival.

6. Injinoo. Movement occurs between communities, and a seasonal though short duration shift, whereby fishing alternates between the east and the west coasts according to the season. Tombstone openings and feasts can involve up to 1,000 visitors. Additionally, there is a show

day during the dry season and various other activities between May and November. The dry season is also the football season, when teams move between Cape York Peninsula communities.

7. Bamaga. Visitors have moved in with the hope of obtaining a house, returning from Townsville and Cairns. Visits for tombstone openings may involve people staying for a couple of weeks. There has also been an influx of young men looking for work, from Badu, Saibai, Mabiag and Darnley Islands. For social functions and funerals people come in from the islands, Cairns and Townsville. Mention was made of Papua New Guineans (PNG) being prevented from coming into the area by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries (DPI), customs and local people. It is worth noting, however, that two weeks before this survey I was working in villages in the Fly River delta. A large contingent of Parama villagers had just returned from an extended church centenary visit to Darnley, where they had many relatives, and they explained how they regularly travelled to other Torres Strait Islands for social, cultural and religious events. From the PNG end of the movement links are frequent, but undoubtedly involve only very small numbers of people, who are not interested in relocating.

8. Seisia. This is entirely an islander community, with in migration from the outer Torres Strait Islands, and from the other four communities on the tip. Mission/church events bring in moderate numbers, around 50 visitors, on some weekends.

9. New Mapoon. An influx is occurring from the islands, but generally new houses will be taken by people already in the community. Some families travel down to old Mapoon for a couple of weeks at a time.

10. Thursday Island. Horn Island is a suburb and growth area of Thursday Island. Prince of Wales Island contains a more independent outstation community. As people have lost jobs in southern urban centres they have returned to Thursday Island, although there are sustainability problems in relation to water and housing. Major events include a cultural festival in the last week of May, and the Island of Origin football tournament on the Queens birthday weekend. There are also tombstone openings and religious events but larger than elsewhere.

11. Weipa. There has always been a problem with housing, but with privatisation of housing there is some possibility of increasing the number of houses. The process of normalisation is thus more likely to increase the number of families, and change the population structure than increase the workforce. This process is then more likely to lead to greater stability in the workforce, with families staying longer. Presently the annual turnover is 17% with an average stay of six years. People are generally staying longer than they had originally anticipated anyway. The workforce reduces in number slightly during the wet season. Patterns of mobility are otherwise those of the general non-indigenous population, but with a higher proportion sending their teenage children out of the area for education.

12. Mapuna. The population fluctuates widely with a great deal of mobility. In some senses Mapuna is seen as a holiday destination, with most of the accommodation being very temporary. It is used for fishing, but operates the CDEP, so people from New Mapoon tend to stay for a couple of months at a time.

13. Aurukun. There are social links with Pormpuraaw and Kowanyama with football carnivals, funerals and cultural events that may attract one to two hundred visitors. There are

permanent outstations, on which traditional activities take place. However, the 1991 census did not record anyone in the whole Collection District that surrounds Aurukun. Presumably some attempt must have been made to enumerate these places, because a whole Collection District had been set aside for them.

14. Napranum. The CDEP program in this community has operated successfully, attracting numbers of people from other communities. Some projects service Comalco and few local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people now work for the mine directly. Napranum hosts a cultural festival in June, which is well attended by Aurukun people. A busload from the community usually attends the Laura festival. About 80 people work on outstations that are in close proximity to the main community. They are unwilling to move permanently onto these outstations as this would entail relinquishing homes in the community. There is an outstation workshop.

15. Pompokuraaw and Kowanyama. Owing to time constraints we were not able to visit these communities. Information from informants suggests a basically similar pattern of outstations, use of the environment, and mobility between connected communities.

In summarising this information on mobility, there are a number of related features that significantly influence mobility. An obvious fact is the traditional mobility of the Aboriginal population, where movement is a cultural reality and a social value. To a lesser extent the same is true of the Torres Strait Islanders, who were otherwise more settled. A second influence was the way in which the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island population was arbitrarily moved, relocated and mixed up by the authorities. This has put related people into a number of separate communities, and into places that are distant from traditional land. A third reality is economic; 72% of families in 1991 lived in rented housing and were thus not permanently tied to one location. The ease of transfer of CDEP entitlements, plus the underlying high unemployment makes movement a reasonable economic strategy. It is also a very important social strategy for maintaining kin ties and social cohesion over vast distances. Therefore, mobility is and will continue to be an extremely important feature of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island population of Cape York Peninsula. The non-indigenous population may be less short term mobile, but because of the remoteness of the region, this population can also be expected to be more mobile than its urban or more southern counterparts, while many professional, mining and administrative personnel will only stay for short contracts. Tourist workers may be seasonal, as tourism on Cape York Peninsula is strongly seasonal. Thus the high mobility of society is normal in this region.

Formerly, mobility has been associated with traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander seasonal movements. Informants in some communities thought that there might be some old traditionalists who lived in the old ways, but no one could be identified as such. Besides probably nobody hunted or fished in a truly traditional way. Apart from the fact that traditions are always changing and, therefore, never truly exist as traditions, what is perceived as traditional hunting, gathering and fishing and use of the environment no longer exists. People use a variety of modern implements and materials for what were formerly traditional activities, they carry out those activities for different purposes, and they use the environment in a very different, and limited way.

Seasonal movements do still occur, but not in the way of traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander hunting and gathering. The wet season between December and April imposes severe limitations on movement, though not necessarily an absolute cessation of movement. Road use figures from various locations around Cape York Peninsula indicate that wet season

traffic may be half to a third of its dry season use. The most vulnerable locations are the outstations. These may be entirely cut off during the wet, and the suggestion was that generally all or most of the people who regularly stay on these outstations would move into the main community. But the idea of east to west, coast to inland movements in the old style is no longer the pattern.

The wet season does not isolate people for more than short periods. Movement between communities is possible throughout the year, even if periodically curtailed during the wet. Social, cultural and sporting events take place in the dry season, but religious ceremonies, tombstone openings and funerals can occur at any time. These patterns of mobility are between communities, using roads, or in emergencies, airstrips. Activities that definitely cease or are seriously restricted are hunting and fishing.

During the dry season there is greater movement to the outstations, and where these are working cattle ranches, families will stay in residence. Children are bussed into the community for school during the week and back to the outstation during the weekend.

Model of Mobility on Cape York Peninsula

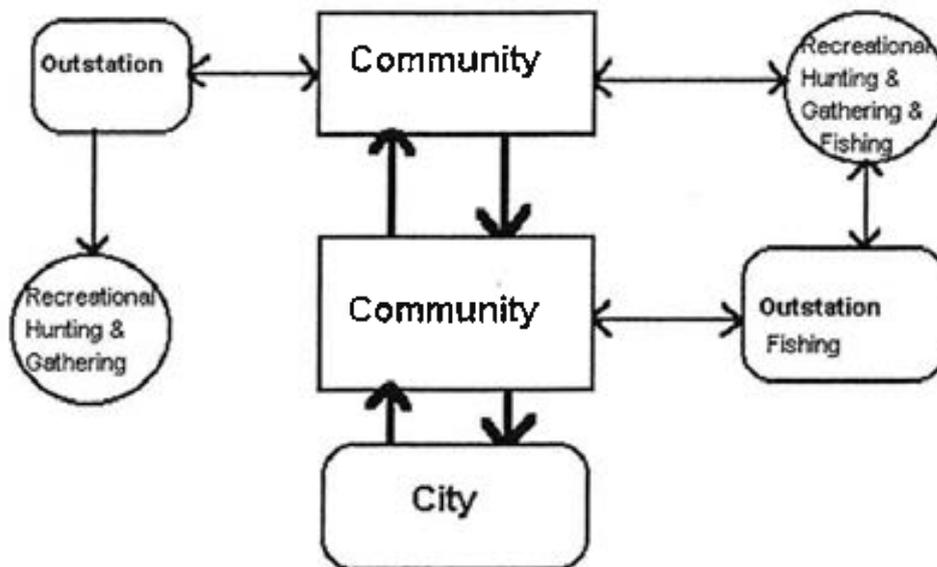


Figure 33. Mobility on Cape York Peninsula

The diagram in Figure 33 illustrates the basic model of mobility on Cape York Peninsula. Movement is essentially urban and is driven by the fortnightly welfare payment and commitments to the CDEP. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people, therefore, need to be in the communities on a regular basis. The support mechanism does not favour residence on the outstations. Movement between communities and relatives further afield in the city is much easier. The customs and values of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander society favour and require this sort of mobility. As well as the small numbers of people who work the outstations, others go out to visit in what is essentially a recreational activity. These weekend, or week long trips for hunting, fishing, gathering and being out on the land, may use the outstations as bases, or go further to campsites in the bush or on the beach. This

activity was described by informants as recreational rather than traditional.

Major events also result in extensive movements of people, but these are also from community to community. It is, therefore, a pattern of high mobility within a constrained network. As people return from towns outside Cape York Peninsula they will fit into the same pattern. Young people growing up in the community will also view the community as the place to be and other communities as alternatives for visiting, work and social intercourse. Only land ownership and increased economic viability of cattle ranching may make the outstations more attractive as a place of work and residence. At the moment even indigenous land ownership will not necessarily improve the economic base of the cattle outstations. The communities, or towns are where population and activities will continue to be concentrated. Improved housing and economic opportunities will probably increase personal mobility.

## 7. REFERENCES

Most data were provided in the form of tables and summaries, some of which may have been included in other reports.

Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning. 1994. **Queensland Population Projections**.

Taylor J. 1989. Edward River Demography, 1940 - 1988. Prepared for Edmiston & Taylor, Consulting Engineers. IN Edmiston I. & Taylor B. **Pompuraaw Community Infrastructure Report**. Brisbane. Department of Community Services and Ethnic Affairs.

## APPENDIX I

Terms of Reference for Population on Cape York Peninsula project.

## Copy of Contract Tasks SCHEDULE A

Centre for Applied Economic Research and Analysis

## POPULATION PROJECT by D. King

## OUTPUT

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Using ABS 1991 community profiles (ARCINFO) and other sources, identify the main characteristics and distribution of the CYP resident population including demographic, labour force and dwelling profiles (this should be done in conjunction with the <i>Economic Assessment Project</i> ).   | Report on population characteristics                        |
| 2. | Using ABS 1991 community profiles (ARCINFO) and other sources, show population trends to the year 2001 and beyond using 1981, 1986 and 1991 ABS data.   | Report on population trends.                                |
| 3. | Produce GIS layers of population information.   | Data for incorporation into the CYPLUS GIS.                 |
| 4. | Describe the demographic characteristics of small rural communities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander outstations:<br><br>Collate available information on non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander demographic and movement information not provided by census data from government departments, ATSI Community Councils, Local Authorities, community organisations, and other sources. | Draft report on demographics of small communities.          |
| 5. | Using ABS and other sources, collate available information on the nature (presence or absence) and the extent of seasonal movements of the resident population (when, how long, how often).   | Draft report on seasonal movements of resident populations. |
| 6. | Produce a series of Population GIS layers taking into account small communities and seasonality (Tasks 1,2,3,4 and 5).  | Data for incorporation into the CYPLUS GIS.                 |

7. Collate existing information on all visitors (tourists and others) to Cape York Peninsula:
    - \* identify nodes of seasonal activity and length of stay per type of visitation.
    - \* produce a map of seasonal visitor input.
    - \* recommend a program to collect data on visitor statistics compatible with existing visitor data collections.
  8. Prepare draft project report for review by community groups.
  9. Prepare final project report.
- Draft report and map of visitor access to CYP.

**APPENDIX II**

The following tables are the database community count tables, and times series tables of a number of variables from the 1991 census. These have not yet been published elsewhere and may be of general use.

CYCLES

| CYPROP ID | COMMUNITY       | POPULATION | POPULATION CATEGORIES | CDEP Nos | Nos. HOUSES | NOTES                       |
|-----------|-----------------|------------|-----------------------|----------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 401400    | Wuji Wujie      | 450        |                       | 210      |             | Ons Bony Gen Sites          |
| 404000    | Zhouzhen Area   | 384        |                       | 0        |             | Combined population figures |
| 402800    | Rosville        | 180        | 20                    | 0        |             |                             |
| 400000    | Cooktown        | 1500       |                       | 0        |             |                             |
| 401400    | Hopevale        | 1000       |                       | 0        |             |                             |
| 401700    | Laura           | 100        |                       | 29       |             | CDEP Range 28 25            |
| 406600    | Coen            | 280        | 50 85                 | 92       |             |                             |
| 401800    | Lockhart River  | 450        |                       | 150      |             |                             |
| 402700    | Portland Roads  | 40         |                       | 0        |             |                             |
| 403200    | Emergo          | 250        |                       | 95       |             |                             |
| 403500    | Enjuna          | 500        |                       | 220      |             |                             |
| 400300    | Barraga         | 1200       |                       | 142      |             |                             |
| 402900    | Seisia          | 120        |                       | 50       |             | CDEP Range 47 50            |
| 403600    | New Rapoon      | 250        |                       | 84       |             |                             |
| 403700    | Thursday Island | 1500       |                       | 0        |             |                             |
| 402100    | Prince of Wales | 150        |                       | 0        |             |                             |
| 403700    | Horn Island     | 600        |                       | 0        |             |                             |
| 403300    | Weipa           | 2500       |                       | 3        |             |                             |
| 403800    | Napiercum       | 1000       | 80                    | 430      |             |                             |
| 403900    | Wepuna          | 150        |                       | 55       |             | CDEP Range 50 60            |
| 4001000   | Aurukun         | 1000       |                       | 148      |             | CDEP Range 130 150          |
| 4025000   | Portpuras       | 550        | 15                    | 277      |             |                             |
| 4015000   | Kowanyama       | 1200       | 12                    | 458      |             | pop varies 12 45 stations   |
| 4016000   | Labelands       | 66         |                       | 0        |             |                             |

CYSTAT

|         |                 |    |    |                                |
|---------|-----------------|----|----|--------------------------------|
| 2092000 | Retreat Valley  | 1  | 0  |                                |
| 2093000 | Riverslea       | 4  | 0  | Caravan Park on property       |
| 2051000 | Rokeby          | 5  | 0  | National Park                  |
| 2052000 | Running Creek   | 0  | 0  |                                |
| 2094000 | Rutland Plains  | 7  | 12 | 7_8 permanent                  |
| 2053000 | Sefton          | 0  | 0  |                                |
| 2054000 | Shelbourne      | 0  | 0  |                                |
| 2095000 | Lakeland Downs  | 56 | 0  | Township                       |
| 2096000 | Marina Plains   | 1  | 8  | 8_10 fishermen                 |
| 2055000 | Silver Plains   | 2  | 8  | 8_10 temporary workers         |
| 2097000 | Soda Springs    | 0  | 0  |                                |
| 2056000 | Southwell       | 4  | 2  | 4_7 perm 1_2 term              |
| 2057000 | Springvale      | 4  | 7  |                                |
| 2058000 | Starke          | 0  | 0  |                                |
| 2059000 | Strathaven      | 4  | 3  |                                |
| 2050000 | Strathburn      | 14 | 15 |                                |
| 2061000 | Strathgordon    | 7  | 7  | 6_7 temporary                  |
| 2062000 | Strathleven     | 1  | 15 |                                |
| 2063000 | Strathmay       | 3  | 0  | Nos temp employees varies      |
| 2098000 | Streamlets      | 4  | 0  |                                |
| 2099000 | Swiss Farms     | 17 | 1  |                                |
| 2064000 | Sudley          | 5  | 6  | 5_8 permanent                  |
| 2100000 | Turalba Valley  | 4  | 0  | Owned by Council               |
| 2101000 | Valley View     | 3  | 1  | 3_4 permanent                  |
| 2065000 | Violet Vale     | 1  | 0  | Not continuously inhabited     |
| 2066000 | Watson River    | 4  | 3  |                                |
| 2067000 | Wattle Hills    | 24 | 0  | Nos varies                     |
| 2102000 | Welcome         | 4  | 0  | Owned by large no shareholders |
| 2068000 | Wolverton       | 3  | 4  | 3_5 temporary                  |
| 2103000 | Yamba           | 2  | 0  | Part of Palmerville            |
| 2069000 | Yarraden        | 3  | 5  | 2_3 permanent                  |
| 2104000 | Youngmans Selec | 3  | 0  | Up to 15 Temporary             |
| 2105000 | Gelke           | 0  | 0  |                                |
| 2106000 | Bertlehaugh     | 0  | 0  |                                |
| 2107000 | Richardson      | 0  | 0  |                                |
| 2109000 | Harkness        | 0  | 0  |                                |

STATISTICAL

|         |                   |    |    |                                |
|---------|-------------------|----|----|--------------------------------|
| 2028000 | Kaipower          | 2  | 0  |                                |
| 2025000 | Kendall River     | 2  | 12 | 13 in Well                     |
| 2030000 | Killarney         | 1  | 0  |                                |
| 2031000 | Kimba             | 0  | 0  |                                |
| 2032000 | King Junction     | 0  | 0  |                                |
| 2034000 | Kingvale          | 7  | 4  |                                |
| 2033000 | Kings Pairs       | 2  | 4  | 23 Permanent                   |
| 2035000 | Koolah            | 4  | 8  |                                |
| 2036000 | Koolbura          | 2  | 5  | 4 6 contract workers           |
| 2037000 | Lakelands         | 4  | 8  | National Park                  |
| 2038000 | Lilyvale          | 2  | 8  | 10 temporary w                 |
| 2039000 | Lochmava          | 2  | 3  |                                |
| 2075000 | Louisa            | 2  | 0  |                                |
| 2040000 | Mairland Downs    | 6  | 2  |                                |
| 2041000 | Mary Valley       | 3  | 3  |                                |
| 2042000 | Melsoyby          | 2  | 0  | Developing eco tourism         |
| 2043000 | Merpah            | 0  | 0  |                                |
| 2044000 | Meruna            | 4  | 6  | Also run Picanniny Sit         |
| 2083000 | Mount Croil       | 2  | 0  |                                |
| 2081000 | Mount Dowling     | 1  | 1  |                                |
| 2082000 | Mount Gibson      | 1  | 3  |                                |
| 2083000 | Mount Lewis       | 3  | 0  | 23 permanent                   |
| 2084000 | Mount McLean      | 4  | 0  | inc 2 squats                   |
| 2085000 | Mount Mulgrave    | 10 | 0  | Possibly both temp and perm    |
| 2086000 | Mount Ray         | 2  | 1  | Hepevale outstation            |
| 2087000 | Mount Webb        | 10 | 20 | 20 50 temp                     |
| 2088000 | Mount Windsor     | 3  | 0  |                                |
| 2089000 | Mount Winton      | 2  | 0  |                                |
| 2090000 | Mount Dowling     | 3  | 0  |                                |
| 2045000 | Normandy          | 3  | 12 | 23 perm 4 12 te                |
| 2091000 | Oakey Creek       | 3  | 1  |                                |
| 2046000 | Olive Vale        | 14 | 0  | Also owns Jackass and Fairview |
| 2047000 | Orchid Creek      | 4  | 10 | 10 18 at quarry on Property    |
| 2048000 | Omniers Outstatio | 0  | 12 | 12 45 perscrs                  |
| 2049000 | Palmerville       | 10 | 0  | Not suitable for permanent has |
| 2050000 | Pinnacle          | 4  | 2  | Poss inc both temp and perm re |

CRYSTAT

| STATION | No. Persons Permanently Resident | No. Persons Temporarily Resident | Range in Numbers | NOTES                                       |
|---------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|---|
| 207000  | 0                                | 0                                |                  | Presently uninhabited                       |
| 200100  | 3                                | 0                                |                  |   |
| 207100  | 0                                | 0                                |                  |   |
| 200200  | 3                                | 0                                |                  |   |
| 202000  | 3                                | 0                                |                  |   |
| 202200  | 3                                | 2                                |                  |   |
| 200300  | 1                                | 0                                |                  |   |
| 200400  | 0                                | 6                                |                  |   |
| 200500  | 4                                | 4-8                              |                  |   |
| 207300  | 1                                | 2                                |                  |   |
| 200600  | 3                                | 0                                |                  | 6 more persons possible                     |
| 200700  | 3                                | 0                                |                  |   |
| 212500  | 3                                | 0                                |                  |   |
| 200900  | 0                                | 0                                |                  |   |
| 201000  | 5                                | 6                                |                  |   |
| 201100  | 4                                | 0                                |                  |   |
| 201200  | 3                                | 0                                |                  |   |
| 201300  | 2                                | 2                                |                  |   |
| 201400  | 0                                | 12                               |                  | Not sure if perm inhabited                  |
| 201500  | 5                                | 0                                |                  |   |
| 201600  | 5                                | 2                                |                  | 2 away 2 months year                        |
| 201700  | 0                                | 0                                |                  | Part of Olive Vale                          |
| 201800  | 9                                | 4                                |                  |   |
| 201900  | 2                                | 0                                |                  |   |
| 202000  | 2                                | 0                                |                  | Being sold May change National Park station |
| 202100  | 4                                | 0                                |                  |   |
| 207500  | 7                                | 0                                |                  |   |
| 207600  | 5                                | 0                                |                  |   |
| 207700  | 7                                | 2                                | 2-5 temp         |   |
| 202200  | 9                                | 0                                |                  |   |
| 202300  | 2                                | 0                                |                  |   |
| 202400  | 0                                | 0                                |                  |   |
| 207800  | 4                                | 0                                |                  | Part of Olive Vale                          |
| 202500  | 2                                | 4                                |                  | Also own Dayton River                       |
| 202600  | 0                                | 0                                |                  |   |
| 202700  | 3                                | 5                                |                  |   |

CRYSTAT

|        |                |     |     |
|--------|----------------|-----|-----|
| 218000 | Wljan          | 0   | 0   |
| 211000 | Crosby         | 0   | 0   |
| 211000 | Calco's        | 0   | 0   |
| 211200 | Denum          | 0   | 0   |
| 211300 | Branighan      | 0   | 0   |
| 211400 | McCr. Jack     | 0   | 0   |
| 211500 | Pyde           | 0   | 0   |
| 211600 | Diggers Creek  | 0   | 0   |
| 211700 | Beesbke        | 0   | 0   |
| 211800 | Birdy Plains   | 0   | 0   |
| 211800 | Lythe          | 0   | 0   |
| 220000 | Kowayama       | 0   | 0   |
| 221000 | Pampuram       | 0   | 0   |
| 222000 | Aurkun         | 0   | 0   |
| 223000 | Lockhart River | 0   | 0   |
| 224000 | Injingo        | 0   | 0   |
|        | Total Rescents | 422 | 258 |

## LABSTAT DBF

| CODE  | NAME                  | WAGE81 | WAGE86 | WAGE91 | WAGE191 | SELF81 | SELF86 | SELF91 | SELF191 | UNPAID81 | UNPAID86 | UNPAID91 | FREES191 |
|-------|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 30250 | Aurukun (S)           | 133    | 176    | 234    | 76.94   | 5      | 8      | 10     | 100.00  | 0        | 0        | 0        |          |
| 32250 | Carpentaria (S)       | 1120   | 941    | 1437   | 39.30   | 84     | 59     | 112    | 33.33   | 5        | 11       | 5        | 12.50    |
| 32501 | Cook (S) (excl Weipa) | 1313   | 1159   | 2065   | 57.35   | 129    | 156    | 243    | 89.37   | 35       | 40       | 45       | 31.43    |
| 32504 | Cook (S) - Weipa only | 1344   | 1239   | 1259   | -6.32   | 9      | 15     | 31     | -66.57  | 1        | 0        | 0        | 200.00   |
| 36350 | Torres (S)            | 1744   | 1504   | 2498   | -42.65  | 40     | 33     | 33     | 132.50  | 22       | 12       | 12       | -45.45   |

## RETAILDBF

| CODE  | NAME                  | SHOP81M | SHOP81F | SHOP81AL | SHOP86M | SHOP86F | SHOP86AL | SHOP81M | SHOP81F | SHOP81AL | SHOP8191 | SHOP8191 |
|-------|-----------------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| 30250 | Aurukun (S)           | 3       | 3       | 5        | 0       | 0       | 0        | 22      | 4       |          | 25       | 333.33   |
| 32250 | Carpentaria (S)       | 32      | 42      | 74       | 40      | 44      | 84       | 40      | 47      |          | 87       | 17.57    |
| 32501 | Cook (S) (excl Weipa) | 48      | 41      | 89       | 36      | 55      | 112      | 28      | 75      |          | 165      | 26.52    |
| 32504 | Cook (S) - Weipa only | 20      | 22      | 42       | 25      | 35      | 81       | 30      | 71      |          | 101      | 49.45    |
| 36350 | Torres (S)            | 59      | 75      | 174      | 117     | 72      | 189      | 100     | 103     |          | 203      | 16.57    |

## POPULATN

| CODE  | NAME                  | M81  | F81  | POP81 | M86  | F86  | POP86 | M91  | F91  | POP91 | POP191 | POP8651 | POP8191 |
|-------|-----------------------|------|------|-------|------|------|-------|------|------|-------|--------|---------|---------|
| 30250 | Aurukun (S)           | 415  | 375  | 791   | 478  | 457  | 935   | 157  | 334  | 791   | 1520   | -15.47  | -1.25   |
| 32250 | Carpentaria (S)       | 1783 | 1430 | 3273  | 1765 | 1521 | 3286  | 2034 | 1758 | 3802  | 1570   | 15.70   | 16.76   |
| 32501 | Cook (S) (excl Weipa) | 2402 | 1807 | 4215  | 2712 | 2355 | 4773  | 3550 | 2720 | 5260  | 1135   | 31.44   | 49.55   |
| 32504 | Cook (S) - Weipa only | 1443 | 990  | 2433  | 1415 | 994  | 2410  | 1459 | 1045 | 2512  | -1.35  | 4.25    | 3.25    |
| 36350 | Torres (S)            | 3070 | 3051 | 5131  | 3453 | 3557 | 6920  | 4231 | 3850 | 8021  | 1124   | 20.65   | 14.25   |

ATSIPOIP

| D.R. | CODE  | NAME               | ABM81 | ABF81 | ABTOT81 | ABM86 | ABF86 | ABTOT86 | ABM91 | ABF91 | ABTOT91 |
|------|-------|--------------------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|---------|
|      | 30250 | Aurukun (S)        | 351   | 337   | 688     | 372   | 343   | 715     | 344   | 351   | 695     |
|      | 32250 | Carpentaria (S)    | 763   | 749   | 1512    | 882   | 851   | 1733    | 988   | 1011  | 1999    |
|      | 32501 | Cook (S) (excl. We | 781   | 677   | 1458    | 904   | 811   | 1715    | 1224  | 1081  | 2305    |
|      | 32504 | Cook (S) - Waipa o | 29    | 27    | 56      | 68    | 49    | 117     | 60    | 48    | 108     |
|      | 36950 | Torres (S)         | 174   | 202   | 376     | 254   | 261   | 515     | 308   | 349   | 657     |

| TSIM81 | TSIF81 | TSITOT81 | TSIM86 | TSIF86 | TSITOT86 | TSIM91 | TSIF91 | TSITOT91 | ATSIM81 | ATSF81 | ATSITOT8 |
|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|----------|---------|--------|----------|
| 1      | 1      | 2        | 2      | 0      | 2        | 3      | 3      | 6        | 352     | 338    | 690      |
| 5      | 10     | 15       | 5      | 12     | 17       | 9      | 12     | 21       | 768     | 759    | 1527     |
| 81     | 73     | 154      | 35     | 29     | 64       | 68     | 40     | 108      | 862     | 750    | 1612     |
| 48     | 53     | 101      | 81     | 67     | 148      | 61     | 56     | 117      | 77      | 80     | 157      |
| 2232   | 2408   | 4640     | 2355   | 2482   | 4837     | 2825   | 2855   | 5680     | 2406    | 2610   | 5016     |

| ATSIM86 | ATSIF86 | ATSITOT1 | ATSIM91 | ATSIF91 | ATSITOT9 | OTHERM81 | OTHERF81 | OTHERTOT | OTHERM86 | OTHERF86 | OTHERTOT1 |
|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 374     | 343     | 717      | 347     | 354     | 701      | 37       | 29       | 66       | 56       | 49       | 105       |
| 887     | 863     | 1750     | 997     | 1023    | 2020     | 844      | 620      | 1464     | 841      | 636      | 1477      |
| 939     | 840     | 1779     | 1292    | 1121    | 2413     | 1310     | 923      | 2233     | 1608     | 1136     | 2744      |
| 149     | 116     | 265      | 121     | 104     | 225      | 1203     | 852      | 2055     | 1240     | 865      | 2105      |
| 2609    | 2743    | 5352     | 3133    | 3204    | 6337     | 600      | 385      | 985      | 716      | 491      | 1207      |

| OTHERM91 | OTHERF91 | OTHERTOT2 | NSM81 | NSF81 | NSTOT81 | NSM86 | NSF86 | NSTOT86 | NSM91 | NSF91 | NSTOT91 |
|----------|----------|-----------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|---------|
| 53       | 34       | 87        | 25    | 8     | 33      | 49    | 67    | 116     | 0     | 0     | 0       |
| 947      | 686      | 1633      | 171   | 111   | 282     | 37    | 23    | 60      | 92    | 68    | 160     |
| 2068     | 1500     | 3568      | 234   | 134   | 368     | 164   | 89    | 253     | 191   | 100   | 291     |
| 1214     | 913      | 2127      | 164   | 57    | 221     | 28    | 8     | 36      | 132   | 27    | 159     |
| 1021     | 682      | 1703      | 64    | 65    | 129     | 136   | 126   | 262     | 115   | 71    | 186     |

| TOTM81 | TOTF81 | TOT81 | TOTM86 | TOTF86 | TOT86 | TOTM91 | TOTF91 | TOT91 | AB81 86 | AB86 91 | TSI81 86 | TSI86 91 |
|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| 414    | 375    | 789   | 479    | 459    | 938   | 400    | 388    | 788   | 3.92    | -2.80   | .00      | 200.00   |
| 1783   | 1490   | 3273  | 1765   | 1522   | 3287  | 2036   | 1777   | 3813  | 14.62   | 15.35   | 13.33    | 23.53    |
| 2406   | 1807   | 4213  | 2711   | 2065   | 4776  | 3551   | 2721   | 6272  | 17.63   | 34.40   | -58.44   | 68.75    |
| 1444   | 989    | 2433  | 1417   | 989    | 2406  | 1467   | 1044   | 2511  | 108.93  | -7.69   | 46.53    | -20.95   |
| 3070   | 3060   | 6130  | 3461   | 3360   | 6821  | 4269   | 3957   | 8226  | 36.97   | 27.57   | 4.25     | 17.43    |

LANG.DBF

| CODE  | NAME                   | ABLANG86 | ABLANG91 | AbTst_Lang_86_91 |
|-------|------------------------|----------|----------|------------------|
| 30250 | Aurukun (S)            | 561      | 586      | 4.46             |
| 32250 | Carpentaria (S)        | 334      | 347      | 3.89             |
| 32501 | Cook (S) (excl. Weipa) | 450      | 781      | 73.56            |
| 32504 | Cook (S) - Weipa only  | 20       | 12       | -40.00           |
| 36950 | Torres (S)             | 1290     | 2223     | 72.33            |

UNEMPCHG

| CODE  | NAME               | UNEM81 | UNEM86 | UNEM91 | UNEM8186 | UNEM8691 | UNEM8191 |
|-------|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|----------|----------|----------|
| 30250 | Aurukun (S)        | 116    | 11     | 45     | -90.52   | 309.09   | -61.21   |
| 32250 | Carpentaria (S)    | 70     | 145    | 83     | 107.14   | -42.76   | 18.57    |
| 32501 | Cook (S) (excl. We | 126    | 467    | 353    | 270.63   | -24.41   | 180.16   |
| 32504 | Cook (S) - Weipa o | 30     | 25     | 37     | -16.67   | 48.00    | 23.33    |
| 36950 | Torres (S)         | 210    | 362    | 265    | 72.38    | -26.80   | 26.19    |

OGAL05F

| CODE  | NAME                   | VOC81 | VOC85 | VOC91 | VOC81_96 | VOC85_91 | NOQUAL81 | NOQUAL91 |
|-------|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 30250 | Aunukun ISI            | 13    | 10    | 15    | -23.08   | 50.00    | 152      | 179      |
| 32250 | Carpentaria ISI        | 136   | 170   | 214   | 25.00    | 25.23    | 911      | 778      |
| 32501 | Cook ISI (excl. Weipa) | 259   | 333   | 455   | 28.57    | 35.34    | 1077     | 899      |
| 32504 | Cook ISI - Weipa only  | 307   | 333   | 342   | 8.47     | 2.70     | 474      | 460      |
| 35350 | Torres (SI)            | 141   | 204   | 243   | 44.68    | 20.10    | 1178     | 325      |

OGAL06F

| NOQUAL81 | NOQUAL85 | NOQUAL85 | NOQUAL91 | NOQUAL91 | NOQUAL91 | NOQUAL91 | NOQUAL91_91 | NOQUAL91_91 | NOQUAL91_91 |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 351      | 147      | 125      | 272      | 250      | 264      | 514      | 37.33       |             |             |
| 1629     | 751      | 684      | 1451     | 865      | 852      | 1727     | -5.08       | 47.49       | 42.33       |
| 1276     | 1043     | 940      | 1983     | 1588     | 1372     | 2250     | 47.43       | 19.50       | 2.25        |
| 534      | 451      | 432      | 883      | 444      | 453      | 303      | -5.33       | 52.61       | 49.60       |
| 2503     | 1232     | 1357     | 2582     | 1771     | 1783     | 3554     | 50.34       | 1.09        | -2.68       |
|          |          |          |          |          |          |          |             | 34.57       | 41.93       |

UNL08F

| CODE  | NAME                   | UN85M | UN85F | UN85ALL | UN91M | UN91F | UN91ALL | UN85_91 |
|-------|------------------------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|---------|---------|
| 30250 | Aunukun ISI            | 2     | 4     | 6       | 3     | 0     | 3       | -50.00  |
| 32250 | Carpentaria (SI)       | 7     | 9     | 16      | 15    | 14    | 29      | 31.25   |
| 32501 | Cook ISI (excl. Weipa) | 17    | 18    | 35      | 9     | 21    | 30      | -4.29   |
| 32504 | Cook ISI - Weipa only  | 24    | 24    | 48      | 35    | 21    | 57      | 18.75   |
| 35350 | Torres (SI)            | 12    | 29    | 41      | 20    | 21    | 41      | 0.00    |

MINING.DBF

| CODE  | NAME                 | MINE81M | MINE81F | MINE81AL | MINE86M | MINE86F | MINE86AL | MINE91M | MINE91F | MINE91AL | MINE8186 | MINE8691 |
|-------|----------------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| 30250 | Aurukun (S)          | 0       | 0       | 0        | 0       | 0       | 0        | 0       | 0       | 0        |          |          |
| 32250 | Carpentaria (S)      | 18      | 0       | 18       | 4       | 0       | 4        | 0       | 0       | 0        |          |          |
| 32501 | Cook (S) -excl. Weip | 167     | 14      | 181      | 126     | 6       | 132      | 120     | 11      | 131      | -77.78   | -100.00  |
| 32504 | Cook (S) - Weipa onl | 628     | 110     | 738      | 762     | 120     | 882      | 558     | 103     | 661      | -27.07   | -0.76    |
| 36950 | Torres (S)           | 7       | 0       | 7        | 6       | 0       | 6        | 3       | 0       | 3        | 19.51    | -25.06   |
|       |                      |         |         |          |         |         |          |         |         |          | -14.29   | -50.00   |

ADMIN.DBF

| NAME                | ADM81M | ADM81F | ADM81ALL | ADM86M | ADM86F | ADM86ALL | ADM91M | ADM91F | ADM91ALL | ADM8191 |
|---------------------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|----------|---------|
| Aurukun (S)         | 22     | 7      | 29       | 111    | 8      | 119      | 23     | 9      | 32       |         |
| Carpentaria (S)     | 167    | 39     | 206      | 34     | 8      | 42       | 50     | 12     | 62       | 10.34   |
| Cook (S) (excl. Wei | 116    | 34     | 150      | 69     | 12     | 81       | 226    | 66     | 292      | -69.90  |
| Cook (S) - Weipa on | 3      | 3      | 6        | 7      | 6      | 13       | 22     | 8      | 30       | 94.67   |
| Torres (S)          | 216    | 91     | 307      | 167    | 58     | 225      | 484    | 148    | 632      | 400.00  |
|                     |        |        |          |        |        |          |        |        |          | 105.86  |

COMMUNIT.DBF

| NAME                 | COM81M | COM81F | COM81ALL | COM86M | COM86F | COM86ALL | COM91M | COM91F | COM91ALL | COM8191 |
|----------------------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|----------|---------|
| Aurukun (S)          | 23     | 25     | 48       | 17     | 26     | 43       | 98     | 59     | 157      | 227.08  |
| Carpentaria (S)      | 47     | 82     | 129      | 189    | 135    | 324      | 390    | 290    | 680      | 427.13  |
| Cook (S) (excl. Weip | 84     | 92     | 176      | 210    | 143    | 353      | 509    | 329    | 838      | 376.14  |
| Cook (S) - Weipa onl | 15     | 46     | 61       | 26     | 70     | 104      | 41     | 110    | 100      | 162.30  |
| Torres (S)           | 218    | 214    | 432      | 370    | 327    | 697      | 550    | 478    | 1028     | 137.96  |

RENTED DEF

| CODE  | NAME                  | RENT01 | RENT05  | AUT-010 | AUT-001 |
|-------|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| 30250 | Aurukun (S)           | 10     | 59     | 5      | 490.00 | -57.50 | 27     | 0      | 75     | -55.55 | 2530.33 |         |         |
| 32250 | Carpentaria (S)       | 130    | 225    | 75     | 32.34  | -57.30 | 70     | 120    | 270    | 64.05  | 113.95  |         |         |
| 32501 | Cook (S) - Weipa      | 13     | 154    | 54     | 12.47  | -54.54 | 141    | 225    | 455    | 52.41  | 99.13   |         |         |
| 32504 | Cook (S) - Weipa only | 17     | 27     | 40     | 59.82  | 45.15  | 434    | 435    | 517    | 3.20   | 4.34    |         |         |
| 36950 | Torres (S)            | 204    | 307    | 135    | 50.49  | -35.48 | 255    | 270    | 757    | 33.77  | 173.90  |         |         |

OWNED DEF

| NAME                  | OWN01 | OWN05 | OWN01 | OWN05   | OWN01   | OWN05 |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|---------|-------|
| Aurukun (S)           | 45    | 40    | 0     | -13.04  | -100.00 |       |
| Carpentaria (S)       | 37    | 121   | 137   | 11.37   | 54.55   |       |
| Cook (S) - Weipa      | 253   | 351   | 442   | 35.74   | 25.93   |       |
| Cook (S) - Weipa only | 1     | 0     | 0     | -100.00 |         |       |
| Torres (S)            | 277   | 226   | 214   | 4.15    | -5.31   |       |

AGREED DEF

| CODE  | NAME                  | AG01M | AG01F | AG01ALL | AG05M | AG05F | AG05ALL | AG09M | AG09F | AG09ALL | AG01E  |
|-------|-----------------------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|---------|--------|
| 30250 | Aurukun (S)           | 4     | 0     | 4       | 5     | 4     | 12      | 5     | 5     | 11      | 125.00 |
| 32250 | Carpentaria (S)       | 323   | 45    | 355     | 54.2  | 60    | 409     | 233   | 50    | 302     | -18.15 |
| 32501 | Cook (S) - Weipa      | 250   | 53    | 303     | 170   | 55    | 226     | 130   | 53    | 243     | -15.50 |
| 32504 | Cook (S) - Weipa only | 1     | 2     | 3       | 0     | 0     | 2       | 2     | 4     | 11      | 120.00 |
| 36950 | Torres (S)            | 123   | 11    | 134     | 57    | 5     | 52      | 65    | 7     | 73      | -45.50 |

| NAME                   | PRIM86M | PRIM86F | PRIM86AL | PRIM91M | PRIM91F | PRIM91AL | PRIM8691 |
|------------------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| Aurukun (S)            | 51      | 40      | 91       | 32      | 38      | 70       | -23.08   |
| Carpentaria (S)        | 188     | 191     | 379      | 152     | 156     | 308      | -18.73   |
| Cook (S) (excl. Weipa) | 339     | 245     | 584      | 259     | 219     | 478      | -18.15   |
| Cook (S) - Weipa only  | 145     | 157     | 302      | 166     | 163     | 329      | 8.94     |
| Torres (S)             | 546     | 532     | 1078     | 499     | 487     | 986      | -8.53    |

HIGHSCH.DBF

| NAME                   | SEC86M | SEC86F | SEC86ALL | SEC91M | SEC91F | SEC91ALL | SEC86 91 |
|------------------------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|----------|----------|
| Aurukun (S)            | 28     | 25     | 53       | 4      | 9      | 13       | -75.47   |
| Carpentaria (S)        | 62     | 74     | 136      | 54     | 57     | 111      | -18.38   |
| Cook (S) (excl. Weipa) | 113    | 102    | 215      | 146    | 131    | 277      | 28.84    |
| Cook (S) - Weipa only  | 61     | 62     | 123      | 49     | 58     | 107      | -13.01   |
| Torres (S)             | 262    | 274    | 536      | 281    | 247    | 528      | -1.49    |

TAFE.DBF

| NAME                   | TAFE86M | TAFE86F | TAFE86AL | TAFE91M | TAFE91F | TAFE91AL | TAFE8691 |
|------------------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| Aurukun (S)            | 0       | 0       | 0        | 3       | 3       | 6        |          |
| Carpentaria (S)        | 9       | 2       | 11       | 9       | 3       | 12       | 9.09     |
| Cook (S) (excl. Weipa) | 12      | 2       | 14       | 33      | 10      | 43       | 207.14   |
| Cook (S) - Weipa only  | 46      | 12      | 58       | 44      | 9       | 53       | -8.62    |
| Torres (S)             | 14      | 18      | 32       | 16      | 40      | 56       | 75.00    |

## **ATTACHMENT**

The following attachment incorporates responses from community and other groups associated with the CYPLUS process in regards to this project. These comments were circulated to the author (where possible) to assist in the revision of the draft report.

From these responses, issues of fact were amended within the final report. Sections of the following comments also portray the views of the respondent and their 'constituency' (if available) in regards to the information presented by the report.

The Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy recognises that various and contrasting opinions exist within the wider community. The inclusion of all responses made in relation towards the information within this report, indicates that the CYPLUS process has been, and continues to be, inclusive of all points of view presented by the community.

WRITTEN RESPONSE FROM  
PLANNING SERVICES,  
QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING,  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING  
REGARDING THE REPORT TITLED  
POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS  
OF  
CAPE YORK PENINSULA

## Response to *Cyplus - Population Report* by David King

### General Comments

The report is easy to read and contains a great deal of interesting information. However, there are numerous examples (outlined below) of data presented and statements made that can (and should) be questioned. The issues raised below do not represent an exhaustive list, principally because I have not checked all the data contained in the report (in many instances it is not possible for me to do so). However, I have found sufficient examples of potentially misleading data to suggest that the report requires amendment before going to print.

As far as the central thesis is concerned, that the Census represents an undercount of the Cape York population, the following comments apply. Has the author liaised with the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)? If so, what were the results of such discussions? Specifically, what is the view of the ABS with regard to potential Census undercount on the Cape in 1991 (and earlier Censuses)? Furthermore, I would suggest that the author liaise with key staff at the Centre for Aboriginal and Economic Policy Research (ANU) who are researching this issue. While I would not necessarily disagree with the thesis, there remains the problem of an independent check against the accuracy of remote area Census counts. What is contained in this report is a comparison between 1991 Census counts of the region's population and estimates of a post-1991 population derived from a variety of key informants in Cape York communities, as well as the author's assessment based on a number of assumptions.

### Main Summary of Findings

Bullet point #2 - How can Census boundaries be too small? I'm not quite sure I understand the point the author is making

Bullet point #10 - I would have to question this assertion. There is simply no evidence to suggest that the peninsula has or is experiencing a high rate of net in migration. See comments below.

Bullet point #12 - The author is free to suggest that the peninsula might grow at an average rate in excess of 3% per annum between now and 2001. However, this means that the region will grow at a rate exceeding projected rates for either Far North Statistical Division, or Queensland respectively - and I have yet to see evidence to support such a view. See comments below.

### Selected specific comments

p3. The report requires a better outline/description of the statistical geography. On page 3 the reader is informed that the core study area comprises 38 CDs, while on page 22 we are told

that the core region comprises CDs in Cook (inc Weipa), Aurukun, Torres (not including all Torres Strait Islands) and part of Carpentaria. Having tried to reconstruct the map on page 4 from 1991 Census Collection Districts, I would argue that a better definition of the core region's statistical geography is required. For example, the 1991 CD boundary structure does not allow a boundary definition such as that shown in the south west corner of the core region. The text on page 11 suggests that the lines delimiting the core region are property boundaries. That being the case, the population data pertaining to the 38 CDs would only approximate the population of the core region. If what I have assumed is correct then the text should reflect this more clearly.

p22, line 5. Reference to resident population. The phrase "resident population" has specific connotations - refer the ABS. Briefly, resident population includes residents temporarily elsewhere (including interstate and overseas! - not mentioned in the text) and an adjustment for Census undercount - also not discussed.

p22, para 5, sentence beginning line 8. The figures quoted here are Census counts. The author needs to make it quite clear what figures are being used. Normally estimates of resident population (ERP) are used for the purpose of describing population growth - unless there is a good reason not to (if good reasons exist they should be made clear). The equivalent numbers for ERP are 17,320 and 19,768 respectively (for Torres, Aurukun, Cook & Weipa, and Carpentaria), yielding an average annual growth rate of 1.3%. Incidentally, the average annual growth rate of 2.8% - as quoted - is not correct. Using the relevant compound formula, the correct figure is 2.5%. As a result, the text that follows in the remainder of this paragraph is also misleading.

p26. For the five SLAs that comprise the broader region, the average annual growth rate between 1981 and 1991 was (as pointed out above) 1.3% based on estimates of resident population published by the ABS. Between 1981 and 1986, the average annual growth was 0.5%, while between 1986 and 1991 the growth rate was 2.17%. Once again, based on population as *enumerated*, the average annual population growth rate for the 1986 to 1991 period was 3.4% pa, and not 3.7% as quoted.

p27, para 3. What is argued here is somewhat puzzling. On the one hand we are told that "too many assumptions have been made" to support or refute the stated growth rates, yet we are asked too accept that "allegations of an undercount are probably correct".

p28. The data in table 3 need to be sourced (I assume the data have been extracted from Cprofile). Some of the counts I have (from a Queensland data set which pre-date Cprofile) are a little different.

p30. para beginning "The Department". Statements made here are a little misleading. The following table shows the correct ERP, projections (medium series) and growth rates. The Department's projections are not based solely on population change over the most recent intercensal period (1986 to 1991), but rather are based on a much longer time series. While I agree that the medium series population projections may appear to be somewhat conservative, it would be imprudent to assume that growth in the core region will continue at 86-91 levels between now and 2001. Furthermore, the author seems to ignore the fact that if growth rates are to be sustained, the absolute annual growth has to increase over time, given the increasing

base population. There is no real evidence that this is likely to occur (refer specifically to comments made below in relation to net in migration).

|                             | ERP          |              |              | Projection   |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                             | 1981         | 1986         | 1991         | 1996         | 2001         |
| Torres                      | 6380         | 6807         | 8103         | 8750         | 9421         |
| Cook, Weipa & Aurukun       | 7830         | 7840         | 8289         | 8475         | 8705         |
| Carpentaria                 | 3110         | 3112         | 3376         | 4329         | 3463         |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>17320</b> | <b>17759</b> | <b>19768</b> | <b>20654</b> | <b>21589</b> |
| Average annual growth rates |              | 0.5          | 2.17         | 0.88         | 0.89         |

p35, last para, line 2. Unfortunately, there is no evidence to support this assumption. The table below shows assumed net migration for the period 1986 to 1991 for the five SLAs.

|              | 1986         | natural increase | assumed net migration | 1991         |
|--------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Torres       | 6807         | 831              | 465                   | 8103         |
| Cook         | 4439         | 389              | 264                   | 5092         |
| Weipa        | 2557         | 186              | -346                  | 2397         |
| Aurukun      | 844          | 67               | -111                  | 800          |
| Carpentaria  | 3112         | 182              | 82                    | 3376         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>17759</b> | <b>1655</b>      | <b>354</b>            | <b>19768</b> |

On the basis of estimated resident population and recorded births and deaths therefore, natural increase accounted for more than 80% of the region's population growth over the period, while assumed net in migration accounted for less than 20%

There is further evidence of net migration that can be obtained from usual residence based data as shown in the following table.

net migration 86\_91 (based on 5-year movement)

|                  | intra_SD | rest of QLD | Interstate |
|------------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| Aurukun          | 22       | 13          | 3          |
| Cook (inc Weipa) | -201     | -363        | 38         |
| Torres           | -299     | -299        | 16         |

Data for Carpentaria are not available.

Source: Customised table USQ6015. These numbers have been published in:

Queensland Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning, 1994,  
*Migration 1986 to 1991*.

There is no clear evidence therefore that net in migration has been a major component of population change, nor that it could account for two thirds of future population growth as suggested on page 35. If the CAERA library does not already have a copy of this publication I would be happy to supply a copy to the author, as well as any other relevant data to which I have access.

p46, para 5 It is not entirely clear how a figure (mean household size) of 4.3 was calculated. Furthermore, there is a significant difference between household and family. As a result, one cannot obtain a figure for mean household size from the data shown in table 23. However, I have tried to reconstruct the figure of 4.3 quoted in the text in the following way. I have assumed that total persons enumerated in private dwellings was 15,347 (refer table 7, page 38) and the number of occupied private dwellings was 3,385 (table 25, page 51 - assuming that one household equals one dwelling). The result of such a calculation is 4.5 persons per dwelling on average.

If, on the other hand, one refers to the Basic Community Profile (BCP) data (tables B45 and B46) for the five major SLAs there were 19,961 persons in occupied private dwellings, and a total of 5,234 occupied private dwellings, which yields a mean of 3.8 persons per dwelling, a significantly different figure. I would argue that the latter figure represents more accurately the average household size on Cape York Peninsula.