

Submission – Interim Report – Annette Ravnor

Due to the timeframe I am going to concentrate on 1 issue only – The Social Impacts – your Chapter 12 of this report or 1.6 Social Impacts Point 8 Community Cohesion of the Terms of Reference, or what I have found it to be – Community Incohesion.

So let's start with "What is Social Cohesion"?

After searching multiple dictionaries, looking up the Legal definitions and a general "Google" search the definition that comes up the most is –

Social Cohesion is a society who works towards the well-being of all its members, fights exclusion and marginalisation, creates a sense of belonging, promotes trust and offers its members the opportunity of upward mobility.

Now keeping this in mind I did numerous searches for statistics of the region. I used the Australian Bureau of Statics Census 2011-2016, the RAAF website and several NT Government areas to come up the with the statics and figures I am about to quote. (All copies are here with the submission for you to keep). Also note I have concentrated on the Katherine area only – however as I have lived and worked all over this country and the world, I know Katherine is NOT unique to the issues I am going to bring up.

The Katherine population fluctuates between 8,500 – 12,000 people. What seems to be constant however, at least according to the census is that approx 25-27% of the population of Katherine are Defence members and/or families, and approx 25.5% are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders.

Now I know all places have their issues, and here in Katherine we have our share. So far however we have kept the 'lid on it'. Tensions here bubble to the surface and then quietly dissipate. However at times a lot is said behind closed doors.

Katherine has been dealing with 3 major issues that threaten to explode at any given time (at least for the 16 years I have lived here), that is NOT spoken about in Public, but only behind closed doors. Of course there are other issues spoken about freely.

The first issue is the – Haves and Have Nots

This is not unique to Katherine, but can at times be quite intrusive to life here.

One example of this was at a Council Meeting where people were stating they could not afford to pay another rate increase, and yes it was quite heated. People were already making decisions on what bills to pay and on what they would have to give up for that week/fortnight/month. At this time it was mentioned the \$70,000 for a part-time position was not enough to live on and could not attract people to that position. There was also a comment that one person said they earn't double that. Now this was at a time where the average median income in Katherine was \$53,500 per year for full-time work, (refer to the census). This is just one example of the 'Haves' not understanding the 'Have Nots' and issues this causes.

The second issue is the – Black and White Issue

This is a constant battle, at least behind closed doors, which bubbles just under the surface. This is one issue that I believe will be with us for some time and the only reason it has not yet exploded is for the FEAR of being branded a racist and/or legal prosecution. But it is simmering just under the surface.

The third issue is the – Defence VS Civilian Issue

Once again this issue is huge and is set on a constant bubble. Once again a large amount is spoken, behind closed doors and at the moment with the PFAS/PFOS issue it is truly on simmer.

Now having seen this issue from both sides I do understand why Defence, as a whole, does not believe they have to worry or involve themselves in any one subject in the local area, and why they don't take or get involved with issues that are important to the Civilian population. However being approx 25% of the population, here in Katherine, it has a huge impact on decisions, and unfortunately most of the decisions are not made with Katherine in mind. After all they don't live here permanently. It's not their home. So why should it matter to them.

So having said all that, so far in Katherine all these issues have been, on the whole, kept under control.

But now we have this issue of – Fracking – The Unconventional Oil & Gas Industry. Which are now bullying its way in.

Things have changed in Katherine and I hope this is not the straw that finally breaks Katherine apart.

Some points for you, the Inquiry to consider –

- There is a very large group of people in Katherine that Fear this industry.
- There is a huge group of people who are scared to say or do anything in Public regarding this Industry.
- People have been threatened with losing their jobs, if they stand up or speak out. And I know of one person who has lost their job over this.
- People have had 'Gag' orders placed on them.
- People have also been 'Bought'. The brown paper bags are out in force.
- Businesses that have stood up to support the Anti-Fracking view have been told to remove items or patronage will cease and abuse by those who are for this industry. And many now will not stand up publicly due to this. After all they have livelihoods to protect.

Now you might ask where is my "Scientific Evidence"?

Well unfortunately, at least my understanding is, unless I break the law and tape every conversion I have or I place someone else in fear of being exposed, there is no 'Scientific Evidence or Proof'.

The fact that people are standing up, and these are people who have NEVER stood up before against anything – are now standing up against this industry should tell you that social incohesion is occurring.

As I will not name or expose people, I will only state here my Personal Experiences – I personally have received –

- Multiple threats
- I have been constantly abuse and downgraded
- Been offered bribes
- I have had my personal property damaged
- I have been refused service in Businesses in Katherine

And all of this just because I am an "Anti-Fracker" and I have stood up. Before this issue I had not had any of these issues and I had never stood up against anything before.

And just for the record – NO I did NOT accept the bribes.

I also know of at least 3 other people who have been offered bribes and numerous people who have stood up against this industry who have taken the same or very similar abuse.

Now your Interim Report refers to this issue ONCE. Pg 94 Chapter 12.2. Now while I agree that the other issues raised are issues that also need to be looked into seriously, you also need to look at what is happening in the Communities, after all under your Terms of this Inquiry – Social Impacts 1.6 – Community Cohesion is listed.

I personally do NOT see an end to the abuse I am receiving now, if anything I see that this will only escalate in the future and my warning to all is – once you back someone into a corner – there are 2 possible outcomes –

1. That person will eventually not get up OR
2. They will come out fighting.

I will let you decide and ponder which one you believe I come under, and for that matter which one applies to the population as a whole.

My hope is this inquiry will take this into account seriously. As I keep saying – Let's look at the big picture – the whole complete picture.

If you truly believe this industry has a social licence and there is only good social impacts then let's have a referendum – let the NT residents have their say in an – open – honest – fair way where NO fear of being 'outed' and with NO repercussions. Let's really find out who is right and who is only "Perceiving" or spreading "Misinformation".

I personally don't see any light at the end of this tunnel. I believe we are all in for a long fight that has only just started and hopefully does NOT come to total chaos.

In summing up – There is NO "Perceived" absence of a social licence. There is quite simply NO Social Licence.

There is NO Social Cohesion, but instead this issue and this industry has and is causing major fractures with the community, and I believe will continue to fracture the community for as long as this industry continues to push and bully the residents of this community.

While the threats of losing your job, being sued, and multitude of other threats hang over people's heads, the Social Impacts are only just starting to show and crack to the surface. This MUST be taken seriously into account. Our communities, life styles, health, country and general way of life depend on it.

Now I want to re-iterate – YES this is my opinion, but if you ask people, behind closed doors, taking away the threats that exist, I know you will find what I have stated here to be true and NOT Perceived or Full of Misinformation.

I await your questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Shirley', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

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Katherine (T) (LGA)

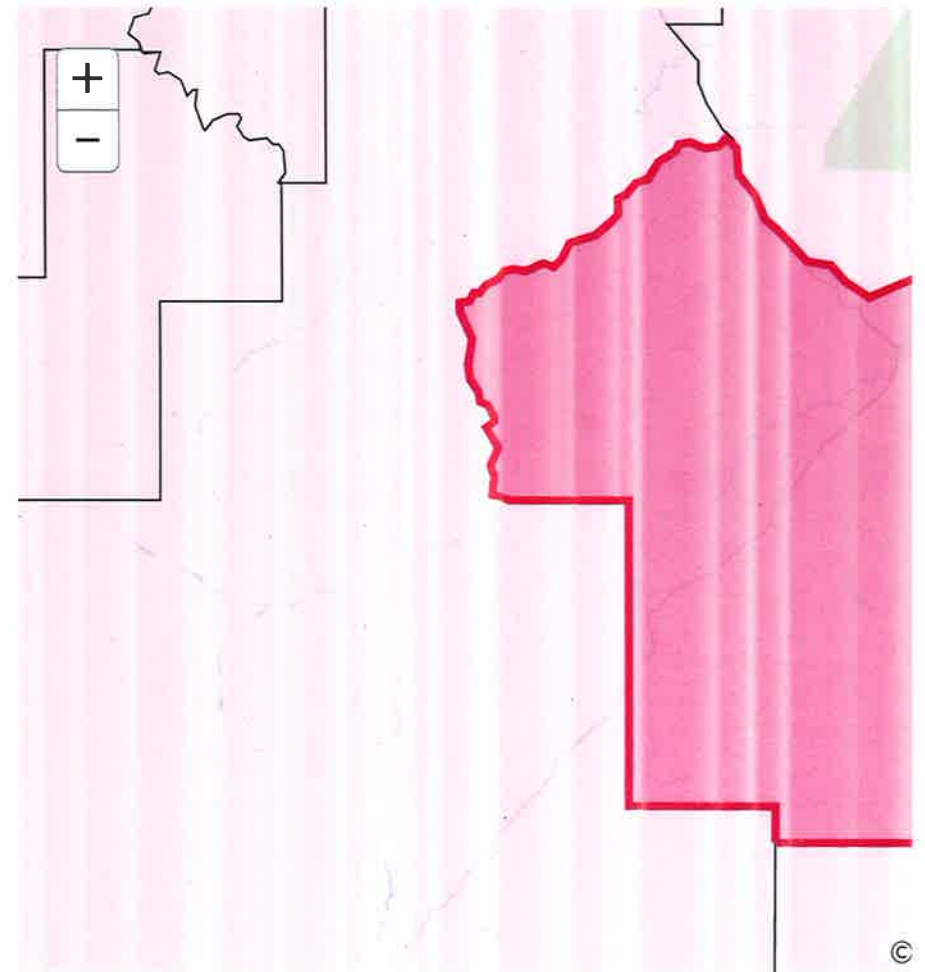
Northern Territory



People

	Period	Katherine (T)	Australia
Persons (no.)	2015	11,118	23,777,777
Male (no.)	2015	5,971	11,826,927
Female (no.)	2015	5,147	11,950,850
Median Age - Persons (years)	2015	32.7	37.4

[Go back to main map](#)



Economy

Total number of businesses (no.)	2015	745	2,121,235
Building Approvals - Value of Total Building (\$m)	2016	65	110,387
Houses - median sale price (\$)	2014	365,000	460,000
Median total income (excl. Government pensions and allowance) (\$)	2013	53,660	44,940



Industry

Total registered motor vehicles (no.)	2016	7,565	18,387,138
Main employing industry: Public administration and safety (%)	2011	25.5	

Period	Katherine (T)	Australia
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Energy & Environment

Land area (ha)	2014	741,664.4	768,848,540.5
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- ABS.Stat (Beta)
- CPI inflation calculator
- Data by region
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Click on the following category headings to view 2011 - 2016 statistics about Katherine (T).

Expand all data tables

Population & People	includes Population, Births and Deaths, Internal Migration
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Data by Region presents a range of data for all of Australia. Data are available for Local Government Areas, Statistical Areas Levels 2 - 4, Greater Capital Cities, States and Australia. Data by Region is intended for users interested in the characteristics of regions and in comparing regions across Australia. Data are in a time series, where available.

Data last updated: **31/03/2017, 11:00:00**

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community profile economic profile



2016 Census data has been released and we are busy processing it to update this website. [View our latest releases here.](#)

Katherine Town Council LGA

Population and dwellings



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11,028

ABS Estimated Resident Population 2016*

The Census usual resident population of Katherine Town Council LGA in 2011 was 9,186, living in 3,901 dwellings with an average household size of 2.65.

There are a number of different ways of measuring the population of an area, all of which give an insight into the size of the place and its rate of growth over different time periods. The Census counts people where they are on the night of the Census (enumerated population) and also by where they usually live (usual residence). Both these populations are useful and form the basis for a range of characteristics collected in the Census.

updated annually after the Census, providing preliminary estimates for up to 5 years.

This page provides the three population counts for Katherine Town Council LGA at the last Census, with comparisons to previous Census years for the Census counts only. The current estimate for Katherine Town Council LGA at the most recent year available is shown at the top of the page. This figure is a preliminary estimate only and is subject to review after the next Census data are released. Please use with caution.

Also included are a range of sub-population groups and key statistics from the Census (usual resident) population, such as citizens, employed persons and Indigenous population.

These figures all provide the context for the size of the population and growth rate within Katherine Town Council LGA and should be looked at in conjunction with other basic demographic information, such as [Age Structure](#), [Dwelling Type](#) and [Household Size](#).

The data on this page are sourced from a variety of different tables and designed to give a range of population and dwelling numbers for the area.

Population

Katherine Town Council LGA - Total persons

Population	2011			2006			Change 2006 to 2011
	Number	%	RDA Northern Territory %	Number	%	RDA Northern Territory %	
Estimated Resident Population	10,488	--	--	9,689	--	--	+799
Usual Resident Population	9,186	--	--	8,737	--	--	+449
Enumerated Population	10,536	--	--	10,298	--	--	+238

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing 2006 and 2011](#). Compiled and presented in profile.id by [.id](#), the population experts.



Katherine Town Council LGA - Total people (Usual residence)

Population group	2011			2006			Change
	Number	%	RDA Northern Territory %	Number	%	RDA Northern Territory %	2006 to 2011
Males	4,661	50.7	51.7	4,661	50.7	51.7	0
Females	4,525	49.3	48.3	4,525	49.3	48.3	0
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population	2,345	25.5	26.8	2,345	25.5	26.8	0
Australian citizens	7,791	84.8	82.6	7,791	84.8	82.6	0
Eligible voters (citizens aged 18+)	5,491	59.8	58.8	5,491	59.8	58.8	0
Population over 15	6,871	74.8	76.8	6,871	74.8	76.8	0
Employed Population	4,300	94.0	94.8	4,300	94.0	94.8	0
Overseas visitors (enumerated)	160	--	--	160	--	--	0

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2006 and 2011 (Usual residence). Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id, the population experts.



**Katherine Town Council LGA -
Households (Enumerated)**

Dwellings	2011			2006			Change
	Number	%	RDA Northern Territory %	Number	%	RDA Northern Territory %	2006 to 2011
Total dwellings	3,901	100.0	100.0	3,901	100.0	100.0	0
Occupied private dwellings	3,529	90.5	88.6	3,529	90.5	88.6	0
Population in non-private dwellings	1,241	--	--	1,241	--	--	0
<i>Average household size (persons per dwelling)</i>	2.65	--	2.90	2.65	--	2.90	--

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2006 and 2011 (Enumerated). Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id, the population experts.

*Note that this is an estimate based on ERP at the SA1 level. It is subject to review after the next Census data release and may not match .id's population forecasts.





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RAAF Base Tindal

Royal Australian Air Force's Base Tindal is 15kms outside Katherine and 320kms by road south-east of Darwin in the Northern Territory. Although the airfield was constructed in 1942, it is the Air Force's youngest operational base (excepting bare bases) and one of Australia's most important defence installations.

Originally known as Carson's Airfield during World War II, over the years it has been upgraded and extended for commercial use. In 1984, the government decided to establish an operational Air Force base at Tindal. The physical security it enjoys is due to its long distance from the coast, making it unlikely it will be swept away by a cyclone. Tindal officially opened on 1 October 1988 and is now the home of:

- No 17 Squadron (including Delamere Air Weapons Range)
- No 2 Security Force Detachment Tindal
- No 2 Squadron Detachment Tindal
- No 28 Squadron Detachment Tindal
- No 3 Control and Reporting Unit Detachment Tindal
- No 452 Squadron Tindal Flight
- No 75 Squadron
- Chief Information Officer Group - Communications Security Tindal
- Defence Community Organisation
- Defence Support Reform Group - Base Support Tindal
- Tindal Health Centre
- No 2 Expeditionary Health Squadron Detachment Tindal
- Joint Health Unit – Northern Territory

The Army's North-West Mobile Force (NORFORCE) also has a detachment on the base.

RAAF Base Tindal is very much part of the Katherine community. Our personnel (including our families) make up almost 25% of Katherine's population of 10,000 people. RAAF Base Tindal's contribution to the local community includes such things as flood relief, Defence aid to the civil community and the use of some of the base sporting facilities. Tindal personnel have always shown a keen interest in supporting local sports, and they account for a large number of administrators and competitors. The people of Katherine are also extremely supportive of the base and its personnel and the close relationship is a feature of a posting to Tindal.

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definition of social cohesion

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Social cohesion is defined as the willingness of members of a society to cooperate with each other in order to survive and prosper.