

The Hon Justice Rachel Pepper
Chair
Hydraulic Fracturing Taskforce
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File Ref: TRIM No.
Your Ref: DENR2017/0283-0002

Dear Justice Pepper

RE: HYDRAULIC FRACTURING INQUIRY – INFORMATION REQUEST

In response to your information request of 18 September 2017, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has prepared the following.

- a) *Provide an indicative Fire Management Zone Risk and Hazard map, equivalent to those developed for the National Bushfires Mitigation Program, for the area including the Beetaloo Sub-basin. Please also provide a map for the equivalent area showing related fire history.*

Attached are three maps to help contextualise fire management in the area of interest:

- Attachment A: Depicts the number of times an area has been burnt between 2000 and 2016 across the whole of the Northern Territory.
- Attachment B: Risk hazard map for the Sturt Plateau and Gulf and Northern Barkly
- Attachment C: Reflects early (before August 1) and late season fire scars from 2007 to 2016 in the Beetaloo sub basin including rainfall from the preceding wet season.

In summary, these maps show:

- fire frequency ranges from annual in the monsoonal north to decadal in the arid south with fire being absent areas of productive clay soil (e.g. much of the Barkly);
- that frequent, late season, large scale fires are regional risk in the Sturt Plateau and Gulf and Northern Barkly areas; and,
- that these late season, large scale fires are related to landscape features and land use and have a slight interaction with quantity of rainfall in the preceding wet season.

b) Provide the outcomes of any public consultation administered by Bushfires NT where development associated with on-shore petroleum activities including exploration was raised as a risk factor for changed fire regimes in the Northern Territory. Where possible include detail regarding the consultation process, including location, attendees and intended products and management outcomes.

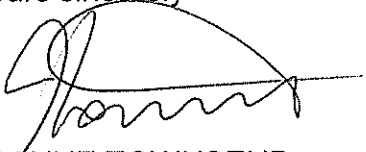
With the implementation of the *Bushfires Management Act (2016)* statutory Regional Bushfire Management Plans for each of the five Fire Management Zones in the Northern Territory are being developed. The Plans are being drafted in consultation with the five Regional Committees. The contents of the Plans specify arrangement for mitigation, management and suppression and other matters identified by the Executive Director of Bushfires NT.

The Executive Director of Bushfires NT has determined that the central element of the Plans is to be a treatment of regional scale risks.

As of 25 September 2017, consultation has begun on four of the five Plans (Savanna, Vernon Arafura, Arnhem, and Alice Springs). In the risk identification section of all four planning workshops, hydraulic fracturing was identified as a potential regional risk, which will be assessed under the Department's established risk matrix, and mitigation strategies developed where appropriate.

Should you require any further clarification or information on this response please contact this office.

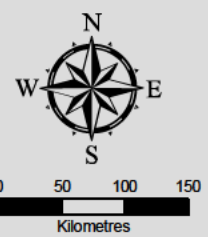
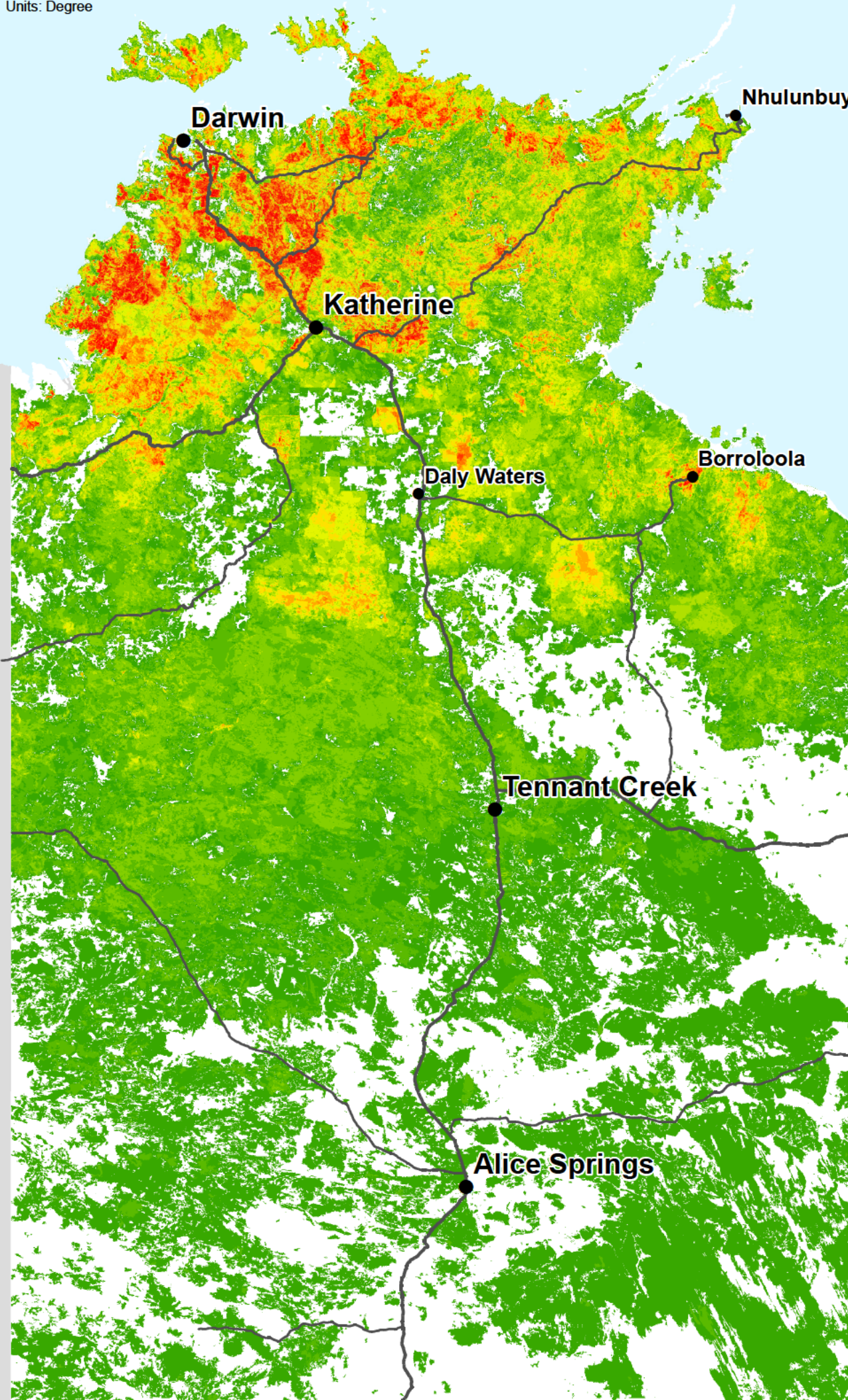
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joanne', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

JOANNE TOWNSEND
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Date 26 September 2017

Coordinate System: GCS GDA 1994
Datum: GDA 1994
Units: Degree




**Northern Territory
Fire History
2007 - 2016**




Beetaloo Sub-basin Risk and Hazard Map


September 2017

Legend

 Beetaloo Sub-basin

Risks

 Infrastructure & Cadastre

 Productive Clay Soils

Hazard

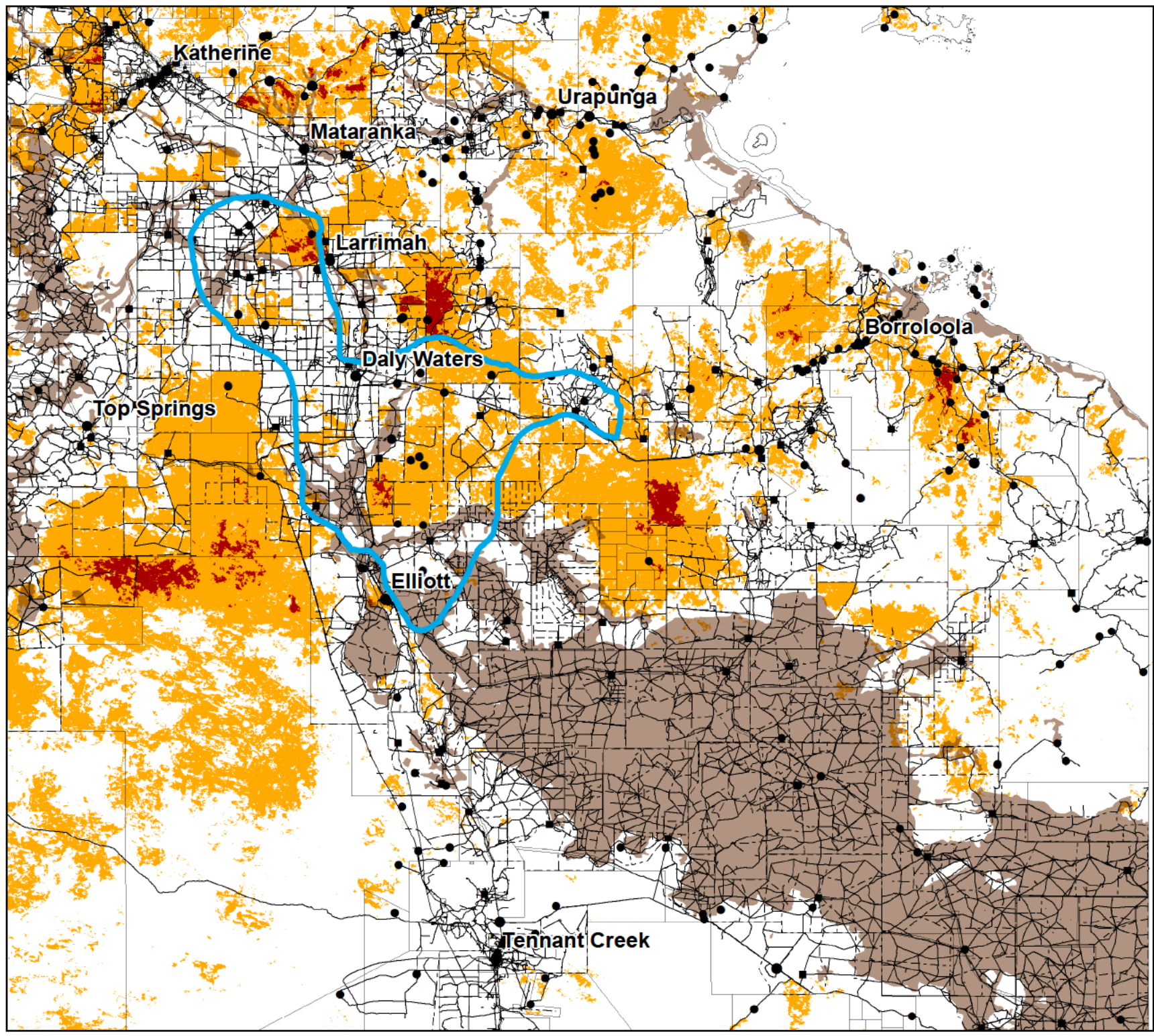
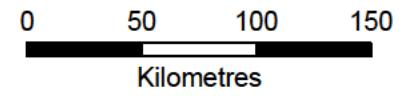
Frequency of Late Season Wilfire
(2000 - 2016)

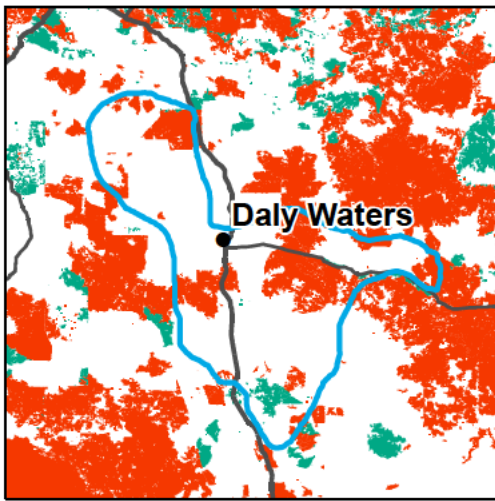
 5 - 9

 10 - 17

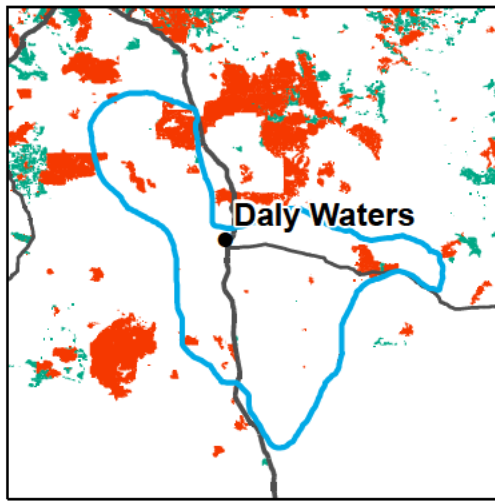
* Infrastructure consists of Towns, Localities, Homesteads, Outstations, Petroleum Wells, Roads, Tracks, Pastoral Fences, Pipelines and Railways.

Coordinate System: GCS GDA 1994
Datum: GDA 1994
Units: Degree

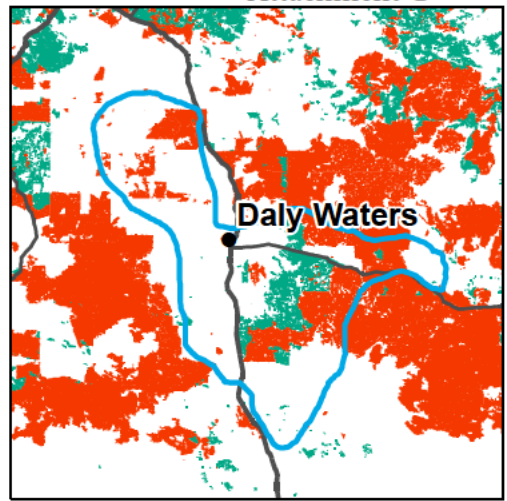




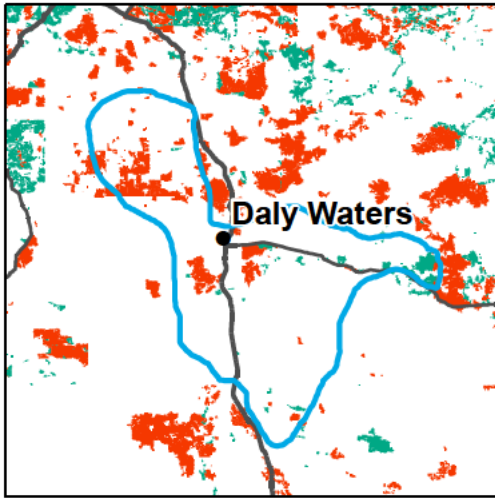
2007 (518mm)



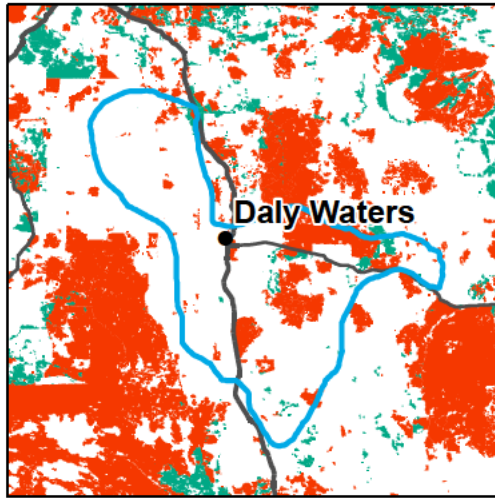
2008 (713mm)



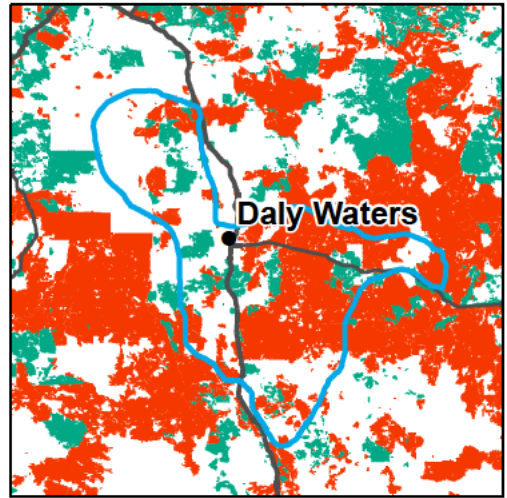
2009 (1155mm)



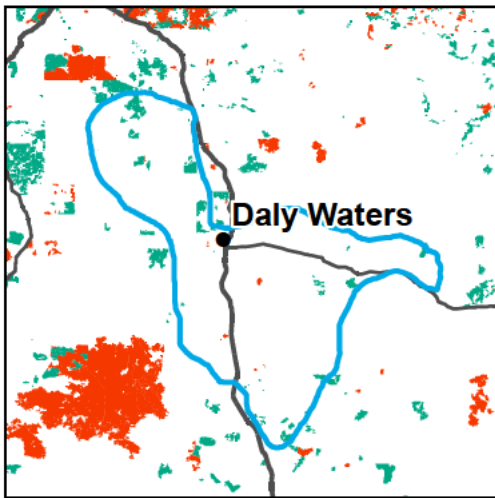
2010 (604mm)



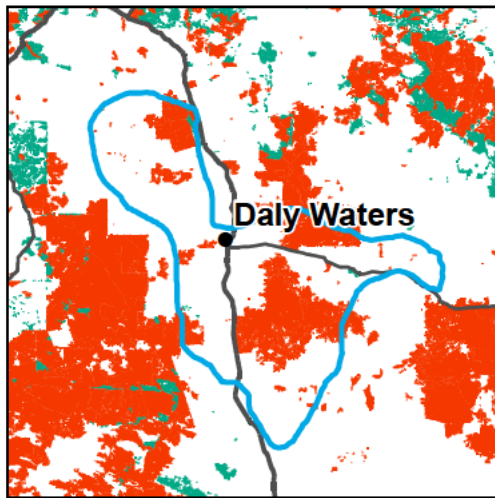
2011 (1133mm)



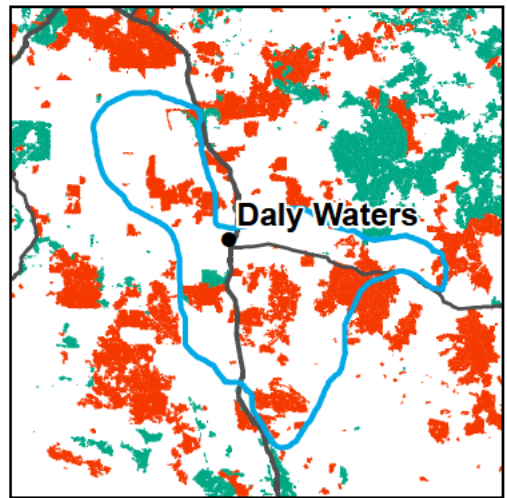
2012 (777mm)



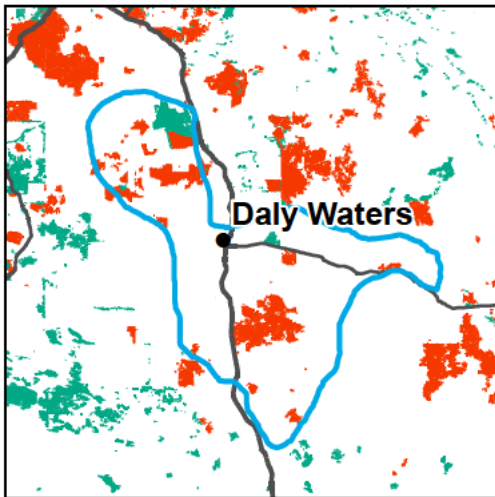
2013 (583mm)



2014 (882mm)



2015 (637mm)




2016 (1019mm)



Location in Northern Territory

Annual Early and Late Season
Fire Scars and Rainfall in
Preceding Wet in
Beetaloo Sub-basin
(2007 - 2016)

Legend

 Beetaloo Sub-basin

Fire History

 Early

 Late

