

# Buffalo numbers in the Top End



2019 population estimate

# Buffalo – how many and where?

This is the kind of thing we are seeing. But what does it mean?  
How many animals are actually out there?



# Buffalo - floodplain

Densities range from 0 – 5.26 head/km<sup>2</sup>

Average density is 2.35 head/km<sup>2</sup>



# Buffalo - woodland

Landscape densities range from 0.3 – 8.6 head/km<sup>2</sup>

Very high densities are seen at a local scale where water is available, e.g. springs, creeklines

Average density across broader area is approx. 0.9 head/km<sup>2</sup>

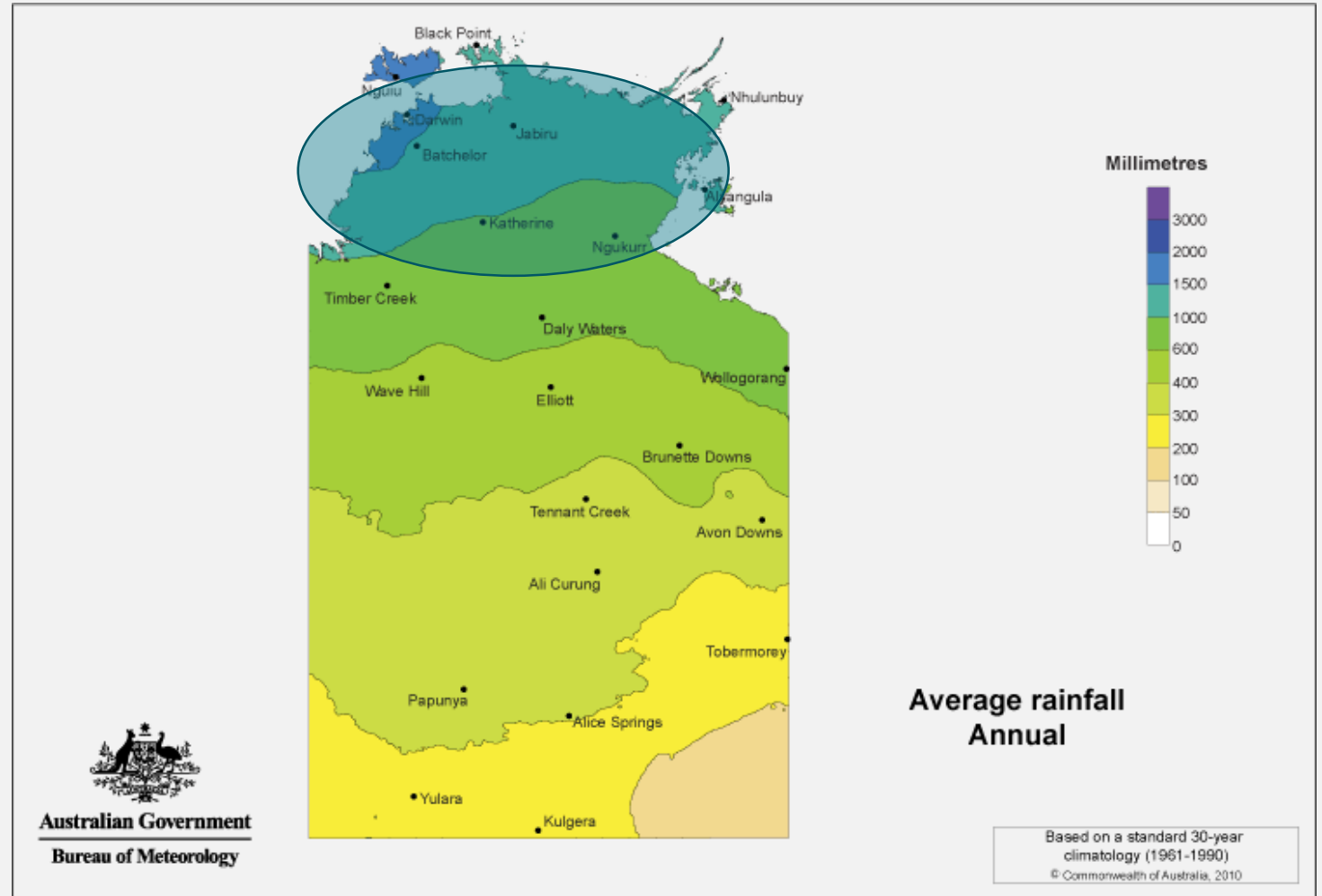


# A buffalo total?

Total area 225,000 km<sup>2</sup>

210,000 km<sup>2</sup> of woodland

15,000 km<sup>2</sup> of floodplains



# A buffalo total?

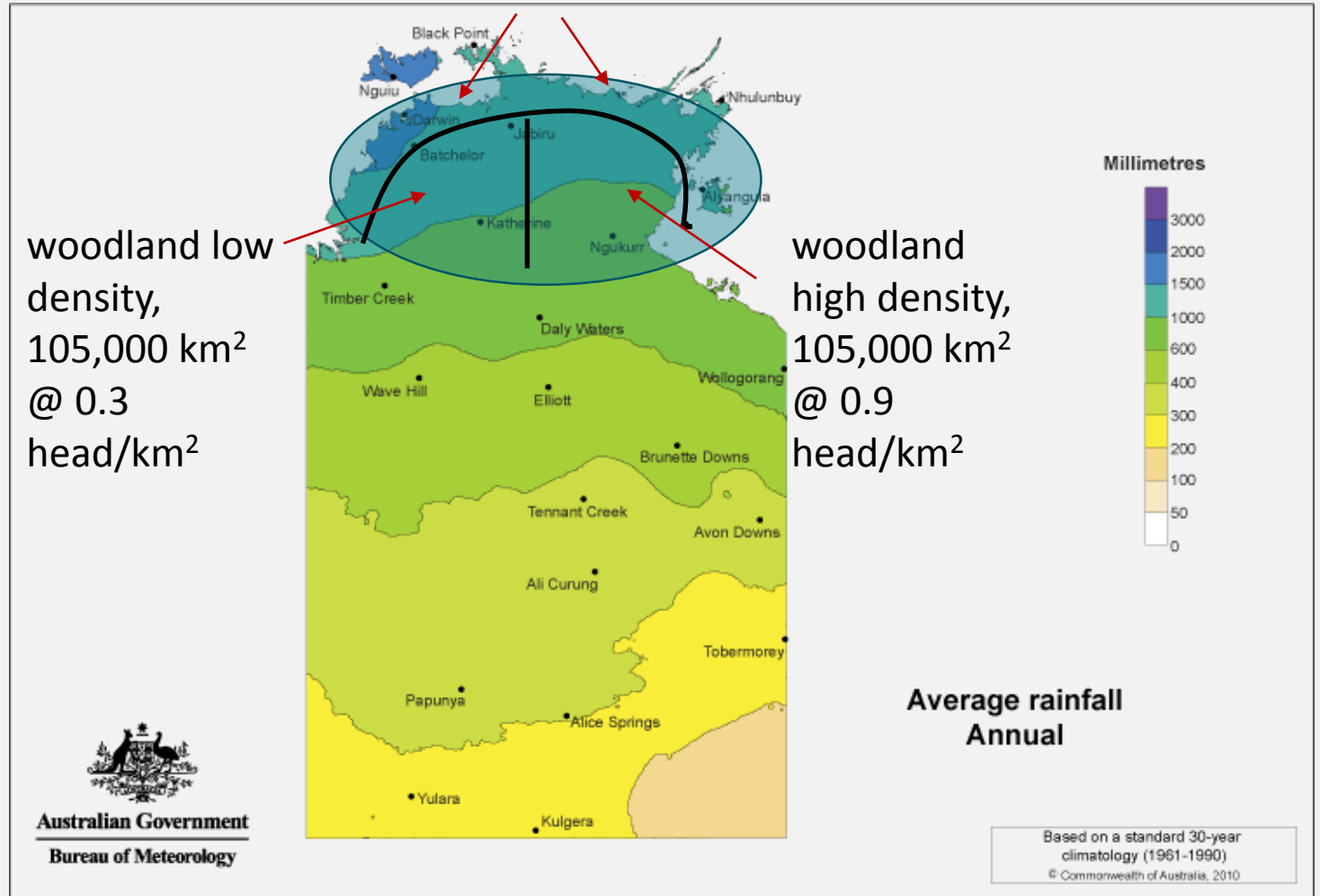
Total area 225,000 km<sup>2</sup>

210,000 km<sup>2</sup> of woodland  
Approx. 126,000 head

15,000 km<sup>2</sup> of floodplains  
Approx. 35,250 head

Total 161,250 head, approx.  
49,125 in Western Top End +  
112,125 in Eastern Top End

floodplain density, 2.3 head/km<sup>2</sup>



# Compared with past estimates?

2014 Arnhem Land estimates were  $97,923 \pm 9,327$  = a density of  $1.07 \pm 0.10$  buffalo/km<sup>2</sup>

Projected 2014 figures for 2019 would also give around 115,000 buffalo in eastern Top End, under removal of 2000 animals/year and natural growth of 5.25% annually\*

\* previously observed, 1998 – 2014

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
starting population	97923	101064	104369.8	107849.2	111511.3	115365.7
growth rate (for Arnhem)	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525
added to population	5140.958	5305.858	5479.415	5662.085	5854.344	6056.697
removed (export or cull)	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	
finishing population	101064	104369.8	107849.2	111511.3	115365.7	



DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

## Feral buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*): distribution and abundance in Arnhem Land, Northern Territory

June 2014



## In conclusion

- 2019 Top End buffalo population is an estimated **161,250** head (minimum)
- Eastern Top End buffalo population has grown by 17,000 head minimum since 2014



# Acknowledgements

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- Rodney Roughan (Outbush Contracting)
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## Data collection:

- Flora & Fauna Division, NTG
- Wildscience