

FACT SHEET

Cost of Transport in the Northern Territory

Cost of Living in the Northern Territory: A Ten-Year Comparison 2016-2026

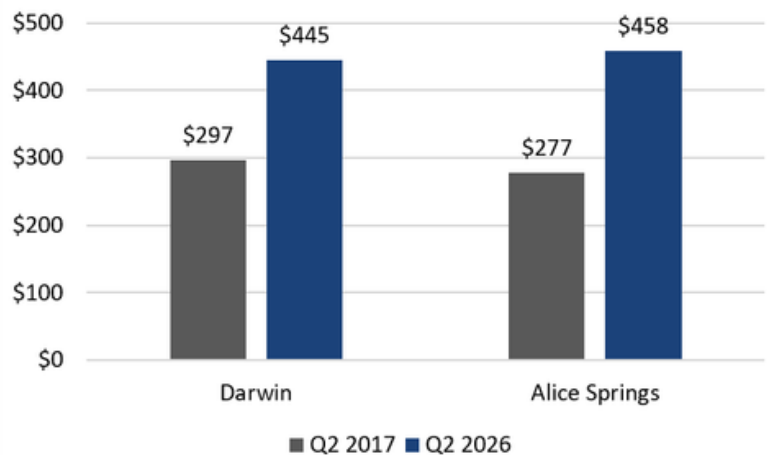
Key points:

- Transport costs are rising across the NT (due largely to rising fuel costs), and are consuming an increasing share of household budgets.
- Remote households and low-income households have been the hardest hit by increasing transport costs.

Between 2017 and 2026, average weekly transport costs increased by **50%** in Darwin, and **65%** in Alice Springs.

Transport is consuming an increasing share of household budgets, rising from **12% to 16%** in Darwin, and **14% to 18%** in Alice Springs over the same period.

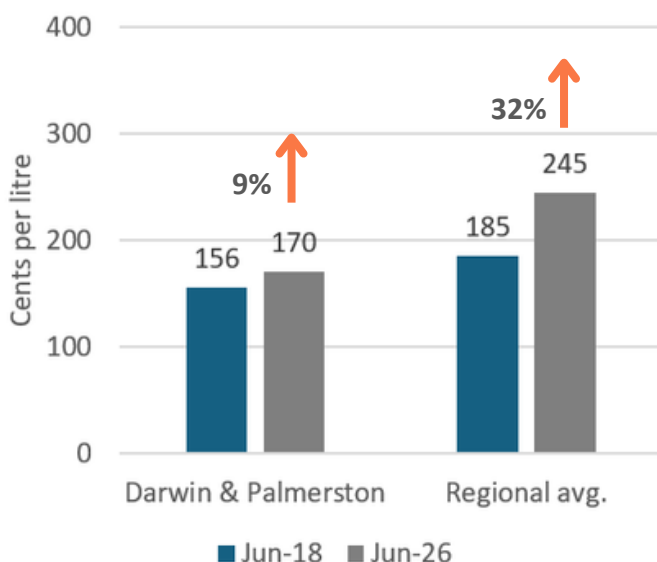
Avg. Weekly Transport Costs: Q2 2017 vs Q2 2026



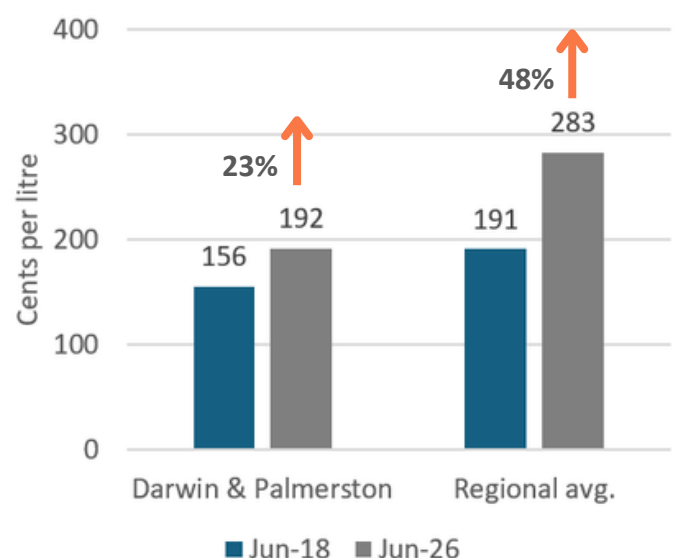
Fuel is the fastest growing transport expense.

Prices in regional and remote areas are consistently higher than in urban centres and have seen larger increases over the past 8 years.

NT Unleaded 91 Prices: June 2018 vs June 2026



NT Diesel Prices: June 2018 vs June 2026



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Transport costs for low-income households have risen significantly in the past decade.

Taxi fares (which many low-income households rely on) have grown considerably across the NT in the past 10 years.

In each of the Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine and Nhulunbuy regional centres, fares increased by more than 26% between 2016 and 2026.

Taxi fares in remote areas can cost considerably more than in Darwin.

Nhulunbuy was the most expensive regional centre, at \$33 for a 10km trip in 2026, an increase of 27% from 2016.

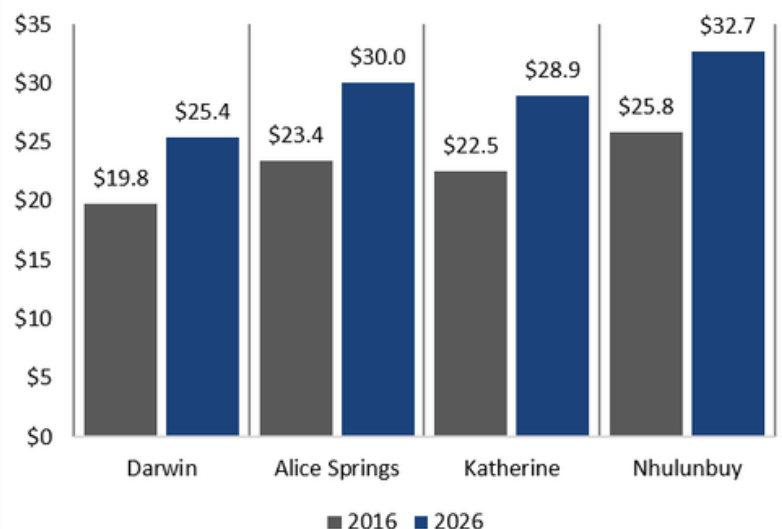


The annual cost of registering a small car has increased by \$127 over the past decade.

The motor vehicle registration concession has remained frozen at \$154 per year, causing the value of the concession (as a % of registration costs) to decrease from 23% in 2016 to 19% in 2026.



Taxi 10km fare comparison across NT regions 2016 vs 2026



Recommendations

For the NT Government:

- Lift the Motor Vehicle Registration concession to a minimum of \$240 per 12-month period and establish ongoing indexation.
- Remove the excessive administration fees on short-term motor vehicle registration.
- Require private transport companies receiving NT Government grants to have concession fare options that give a significant discount.
- Conduct a review into regional and remote public transport networks.