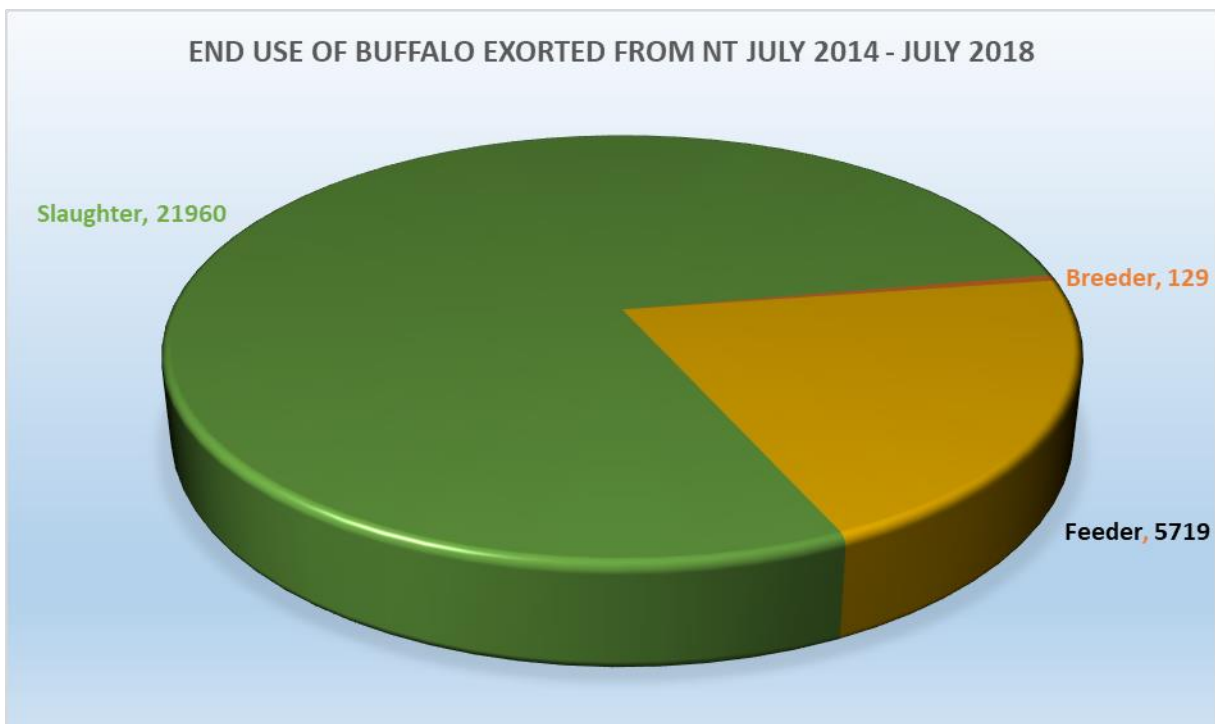
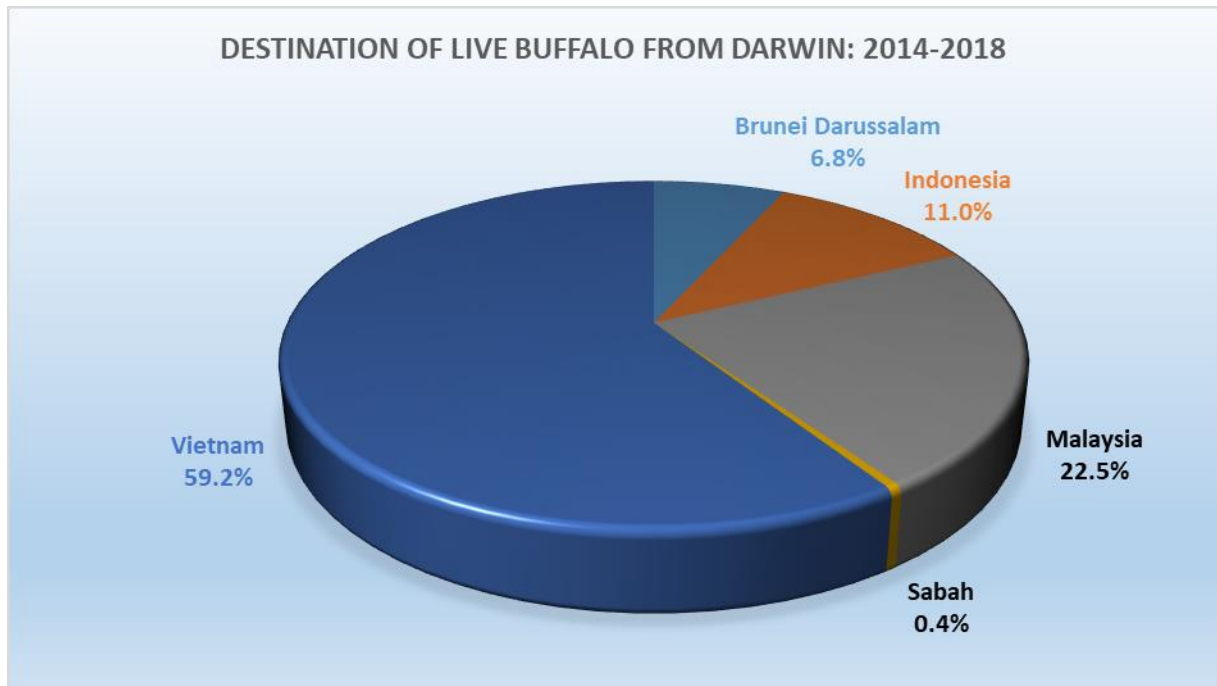


NT buffalo industry summary from 2014

- The NT is the source of almost all buffalo exports from Australia
- 28,123 buffalo have been exported from Australia from July 2014 to July 2018.
- Of these 98.9% or 27,808 were from the NT.
- 79% of the buffalo exported from the NT were destined for slaughter



- Almost 60% of the buffalo exported between 2014 and 2018 were shipped to Vietnam.



The NTBIC considers that with enhanced collaboration between land owners and buffalo industry participants it can grow the market to about 50,000 (about \$40 million FOB) animals per year within the next 5 years.

These numbers are based partly on the demand for live buffalo from Vietnam and the other traditional markets for live export.

Included in this 50,000 target is the as-yet unfulfilled demand from Europe, where Australia has a quota for over 3000 tonnes of boxed frozen meat – which is equivalent to about 25,000 animals.

The Top End needs an abattoir to process these animals for this valuable (ca. \$20 million p.a. FOB) European market.



What would a buffalo herd turning off 50,000 animals per year look like?

<i>Cow calving rate</i>	<i>80%</i>
<i>Calf mortality</i>	<i>12%</i>
<i>Yearling mortality per year</i>	<i>2%</i>
<i>Cow mortality per year</i>	<i>3%</i>
<i>Bull mortality per year</i>	<i>2%</i>
<i>Heifer 1st calving age</i>	<i>24 months</i>
<i>Yearling size</i>	<i>180 kg</i>
<i>2 y.o. size</i>	<i>350 kg</i>
<i>Optimum selling size</i>	<i>350 – 400 kg</i>

The herd would consist of about 205,000 animals, which would include 76,000 cows and 1,520 bulls. The rest of the herd is calves and weaners. The total biomass of the herd would be about 74,000 tonnes. This herd would turn off the following each year:

<i>Heifers</i>	<i>11,100</i>
<i>Bulls</i>	<i>25,840</i>
<i>Old cows</i>	<i>12,930</i>
<i>Old bulls</i>	<i>130</i>
<i>Total number</i>	<i>50,000</i>
<i>Total liveweight kg</i>	<i>23 million</i>
<i>Approx farm gate value</i>	<i>\$30 million</i>

Can the Top End of the NT support this herd size? *Given that in 2014 the feral buffalo herd in Arnhem Land alone was conservatively estimated at about 160,000 animals then the answer is a definite yes. The NT buffalo herd currently is a combination of managed wild/feral buffalo as well as farmed buffalo. These segments combined have potential to grow to at least the size required to turn off 50,000 animals within five years.*