

Wet just keeps getting bigger

By BEN JONES

DESPITE reports of the worst droughts in decades in the southern states, northern Australia, including the Kimberley, is getting wetter.

According to Bureau of Meteorology statistics the Kimberley's annual rainfall has increased by about 15mm per decade since the 1970s.

Broome's annual average rainfall for each decade going back over the same period sees a much larger increase with the annual average rainfall for the 1970s at 651.8mm while last decade (2000-2009) had an annual average of 751.5mm.

The wettest year on record was

also recorded with 1496.6mm falling in 2000 while six of the wettest months on record were recorded in the last 15 years while January 1997 was the wettest month recorded with 910.8mm falling.

The cause of the increase in rainfall could be due to a variety of reasons said BOM meteorologist Yenhui Brockley.

Ms Brockley said CSIRO climate models were used to determine whether the rainfall was affected by increased aerosol and greenhouse gas emissions in the northern hemisphere. "Preliminary findings indicate the increase in emissions from China and India could be increasing the rainfall in Australia however nothing is confirmed yet," she said.



The Kimberley has been getting wetter since the 1970s.

Port requests land lot

BROOME Port Authority has requested an allocation of 20ha of industrial zoned land at the planned Broome Road industrial area for lay down and storage areas.

The Broome Road industrial area has been planned for the possible expansion of industrial activity in Broome, as well as the eventual relocation of Broome airport, and covers about 550ha on the Roebuck Bay side of Broome Road, about 10km from town.

Broome Port chief executive Vic Justice said the Port had requested the land with its expansion and development over the next 20 to 50 years in mind.

Captain Justice said there was a lack of land closer to the Port, with much of the surrounding land protected from development.

"The land could be used for items going out to James Price Point and would relieve a bit of traffic going into town," he said.