



Northern
Territory
Government

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND THE ARTS

Annual Report

2007-2008



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The Northern Territory Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport would like to advise readers that this document might contain pictures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people that may offend.

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Purpose of the Report

This annual report provides a record of the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts and the Territory Wildlife Parks Government Business Division's achievements for the 2007-08 financial year.

Pursuant to Section 28 of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, the report aims to inform Parliament, Territorians and other stakeholders of:

- The primary functions and responsibilities of the Agency
- Significant activities undertaken during the year highlighting specific achievements against budgeted outputs
- The Agency's fiscal management and performance.

In the report 'the Agency' is used when referring to the Chief Executive's complete area of responsibility, including both the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts and the Territory Wildlife Parks Government Business Division.

When referring to the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts in isolation the term 'the Department' is used.

The Government Business Division, Territory Wildlife Parks, is responsible for managing the Alice Springs Desert Park and the Territory Wildlife Park.

Target Audience

This Annual Report provides information to numerous target audiences on the Agency's activities and achievements with the 2007-08 financial year. It's tabled in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly as an accountability reporting mechanism for the Agency's respective Ministers and the Parliament. The Annual Report is a finalisation of the Agency's achievements, income and financial expenditure from the Northern Territory Treasurer's Budget 2007.

The Agency works in partnership with the Northern Territory community to ensure the Territory's natural and cultural heritage, and its values, are protected. The Agency also works collaboratively with our stakeholders in such areas as heritage, environment protection, natural resources, wildlife management, arts, film and museums, national parks estate and tourism to achieve this protection.

For such a wide ranging stakeholder audience, this annual report provides a summary of the range of Agency services and activities undertaken. This Annual Report also formally acknowledges the achievements carried out by Agency employees. It also provides another source of information to Northern Territory Government employees and tax payers about the full scope of Agency programs that may not be fully appreciated from the perspective of individual workplaces.

Additionally, this Annual Report provides information for other government agencies and the wider public about the wide range of activities undertaken by the Agency – a lot of which occurs outside the main population area – the purpose of these activities, and how successful they are.

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Hon Alison Anderson MLA
Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage
Minister for Parks and Wildlife
Parliament House
Darwin NT 0800

Marion Scrymgour MLA
Minister for Arts and Museums
Parliament House
Darwin NT 0800

Dear Ministers

I am pleased to present you with the annual report of the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts for the financial year 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008.

The report describes the performance and key achievements of each of the Department's Output Groups and the Territory Wildlife Parks, as required by Section 28 of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*.

With regard to my duties as Accountable Officer, pursuant to Section 13 of the *Financial Management Act*, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the system of internal control and audit provides reasonable assurance that:

a) proper records of all transactions affecting the Agency are kept and that employees under my control observe the provisions of the *Financial Management Act*, its regulations and applicable Treasurer's Directions;

- b) procedures within the Agency afford proper internal control and a current description of such procedures is recorded in the accounting and property manual which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Financial Management Act*;
- c) no indication of fraud, malpractice, major breach of legislation or delegation, major error in or omission from the accounts and records exists;
- d) under Section 15 of the *Financial Management Act* the Agency is required to have adequate internal audit capacity. As of 30 June 2008 the Agency did not have this function in place;
- e) the financial statements included in the annual report have been prepared from proper accounts and records and are in accordance with Treasurer's Directions; and
- f) all Employment Instructions issued by the Commissioner for Public Employment have been satisfied.

Yours sincerely



Jim Grant
Chief Executive
15 October 2008

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Overview



An Overview by the Chief Executive 2007-08

In its third year of operation this Agency has continued to forge ahead achieving management and preservation outcomes for the Northern Territory's natural and cultural assets. These outcomes have also ensured Territorians and visitors alike have access to, and enjoyment of, these unique and highly valuable assets through our National Parks estate, Museums and Art Galleries, the visitor orientated Territory Wildlife Park and Alice Springs Desert Park, the heritage property register and the natural environment.

These management, preservation and visitor outcomes include;

- Upgrading visitor facilities in National Parks that included the Palm Valley campground at Finke Gorge National Park, new campgrounds and amenities at Channel Point Coastal Reserve, a visitor interpretation amphitheatre in the West MacDonnell National Park and new shelters and visitor amenities on the world renowned Larrapinta Trail.
- Declaring the Alice Springs Water Resource Strategy and commencing community consultation for the Tindal Limestone Aquifer draft Water Allocation Plan. Both these measures are to ensure this finite resource is managed for not only consumptive use by humans, but more importantly, environmental use and long term sustainability.
- Commencing research on the responses of biodiversity to clearing and habitat fragmentation in the Daly region. This study identified the native plant and animal species that are most disadvantaged by intensification of development, and the landscape configurations that were best suited for balancing biodiversity development pressures.
- Finalising the first operational Joint Management Plan for the Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve with Traditional Owners under the 2005 *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*. Joint Management provides a range of benefits, through a more inclusive approach to park management as well as improved social and ecological outcomes for Traditional Owners, their families and communities. It increases opportunities for Indigenous training and employment in the management of country, richer visitor experience opportunities and tourism benefits, sharing of land management knowledge and recognition of Traditional Owners' rights.
- Providing significant expertise in securing the feature filming, within the Northern Territory, of *Australia* and *Balibo*. Both these feature film projects have resulted in employment opportunities for Territorians and significant exposure of the Territory's natural assets. Both films are expected to inject millions into the Territory economy through tourism once completed.

- Representing the Northern Territory Government in national climate change policy development and on a local level, providing advice to the Northern Territory Government on potential new climate change initiatives and the Territory's Climate Change Policy.

Internally, the Agency has continued with its policy of developing leadership qualities amongst its senior management structure, with almost 50 employees undergoing the intensive Leadership Development Program. The Agency is also moving forward with its corporate governance structures. This year we established a Procurement Plan Framework, which will strengthen our already stringent practices in this area. Also, numerous recommendations from the Agency's Audit Committee will be implemented in 2008-09 as a means of improving our risk management practices.

As the leading Northern Territory Government Agency on environmental matters, the Agency has also 'looked in its own backyard' by undertaking an independent Eco-footprint Audit. This Audit was to evaluate our own carbon footprint and identify (and then implement) opportunities for improvement in the Agency's environmental management and offset carbon emissions within our own work environment. This Audit has been completed and the methods of reducing our carbon footprint will be implemented in 2008-09.

The year past has also been one of change for the Agency, with my appointment as acting Chief Executive in March and then formally in June 2008. Looking forward, the Agency has a large agenda to deliver on in 2008-09. Key focus areas will be on regional development, completing major policy initiatives and improving our ability in working with the community.

Major initiatives will include more consultation scheduled on Joint Management of National Parks, completing a marine protected areas strategy, further policy development for the Daly region and ongoing research into the area's water and biodiversity assets, further water allocation planning across the Top End in Mataranka and the Darwin rural area, developing a creative industries framework for the arts and screen sector of the Territory, and progressing the development of the Building Our Museums Sector: A 10-year Plan. We will also complete the Territory's first Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and a Natural Resource Framework, which includes a Living Rivers Policy and a Native Vegetation Act.

In presenting this annual report, I thank employees for their ongoing efforts, commitment and willingness to deliver the achievements outlined in this document, and increasing these outcomes in 2008-09.

Jim Grant

Our Vision

Enable Territory communities to flourish in healthy and productive environments and be inspired through understanding of natural systems, our culture and history.

Purpose

The Agency exists because the long-term economic and social well-being of the Territory depends on us living in a healthy natural environment and understanding the Territory's history, culture and social identity.

The Agency is here to make it possible for Territory communities to keep demands on natural resources within sustainable limits, retain their unique histories and to foster artistic expression.

Strategic Objectives

Over the next six years the Agency will succeed in being:

- Confirmed as an effective custodian of natural and cultural assets placed in its care
- Relied on as an authoritative source of information and advice on the management of environments and resources
- Respected for our active support for all managers of lands, seas and cultural and scientific assets to improve stewardship of these assets
- Acknowledged for the effectiveness of our support for the arts and their critical contribution to shaping the Territory community and identity
- Recognised for our positive influence on the economic status of the Territory
- Acknowledged as a fair and effective regulator
- Accepted as a reliable partner

The Agency cannot do all that is needed on its own. It can only fulfil its role through effective partnerships and through its ability to influence others to share our Vision.

Key Functional Responsibilities

The Agency's key functional responsibilities, or what it is required to do by the Government, are determined in Budget Paper 3. Determined as priorities by Government for the Agency to manage, these responsibilities are:

- Conserve for posterity the Territory's parks and reserves, historic buildings and permanent museum and art gallery collections
- Protect heritage sites and objects and threatened wildlife
- Support community involvement in the environment and heritage and develop, promote and grow the arts sector and screen industries by providing information, grants and in-kind financial assistance targeted at: heritage; history; achieving sustainable environmental practices; addressing climate change; natural resource management; regional museums; and arts and film industries
- Assess and advise government on environmental issues arising from proposed land uses and predict and mitigate threats created by: floods; climate change; wildfires; invasive species; resource degradation; and nuisance wildlife
- Investigate, monitor, recommend and enforce sustainable utilisation of natural resources including water, native vegetation and wildlife
- Create commercial, educational and recreational opportunities through the use of natural resources, artistic and creative enterprises and government owned institutions including:
 - the Territory Wildlife and Alice Springs Desert Parks
 - the Araluen Arts Centre
 - Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory
 - heritage buildings
 - botanic gardens; and
 - the parks estates

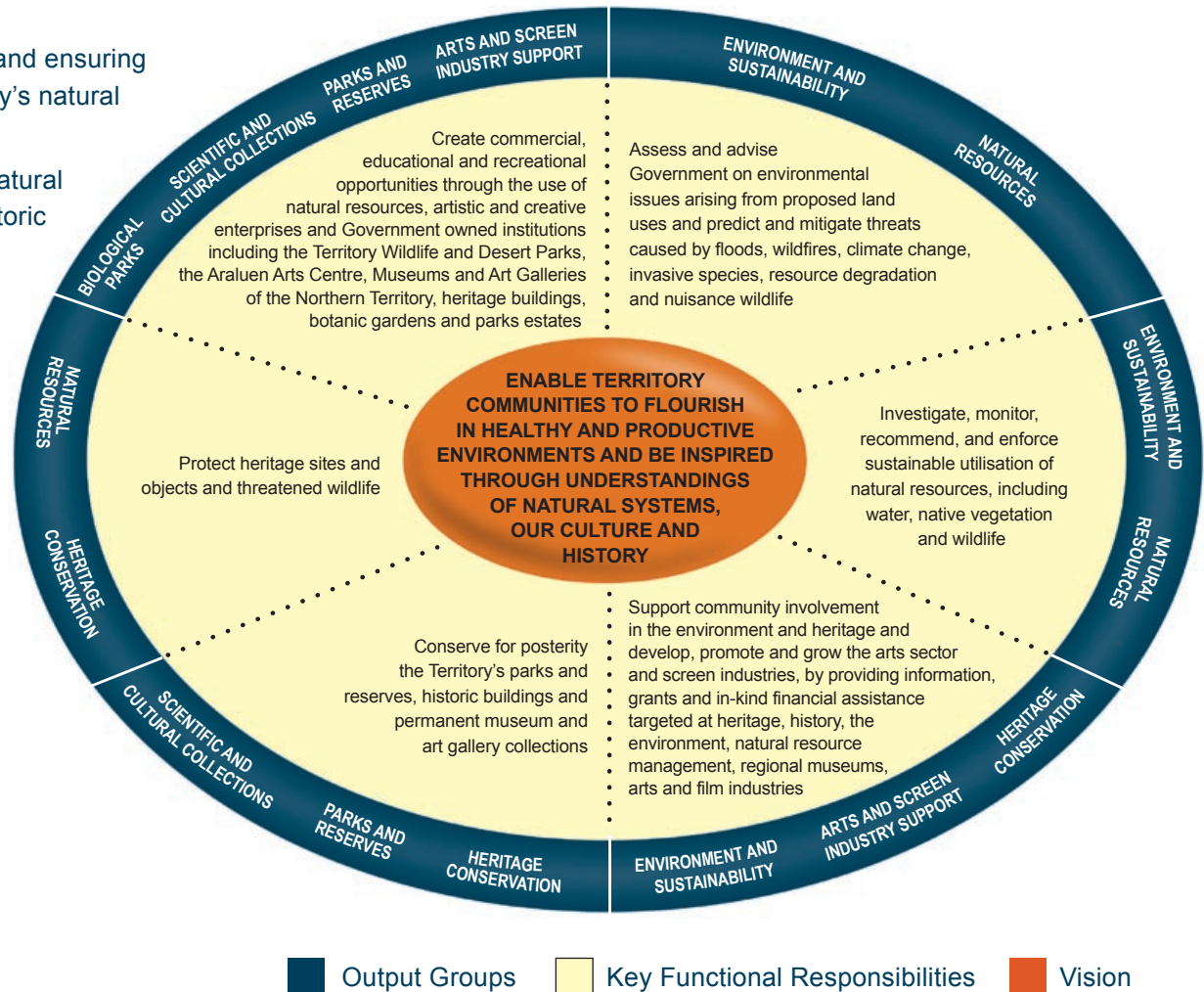
Strategic Role

The Agency is responsible for conserving, enhancing and ensuring best possible access to, and enjoyment of, the Territory's natural and cultural assets.

This includes native wildlife and habitats, renewable natural resources including water and natural landscapes, historic buildings and places, scientific and cultural collections as well as promotion and development of creative communities.

The Agency has seven Output Groups that are committed to ensuring the Agency fulfils its Key Functional Responsibilities, and in turn its Vision.

The work completed by the Agency's Output Groups, known as Outputs, are detailed in the [Performance Reporting](#) section of this Annual Report starting on page 82. These Output Groups are structured from a Budget Paper perspective. The Agency's internal [operational structure](#), as detailed on page 10, indicates which areas of the Agency make-up the Output Groups.



How We Achieve This

1. Conserve for posterity the Territory's parks and reserves, historic buildings and permanent museum and art gallery collections

This is achieved by enhancing and maintaining, to the highest standards, the public conservation estate encompassing parks and reserves, biological parks, permanent collections and exhibits of natural and cultural objects and historic buildings.

2. Protect heritage sites and objects and threatened wildlife

This is achieved through increased understanding of these assets, knowing the dangers to their preservation, understanding public expectations for their preservation and promoting awareness of their many values.

3. Support community involvement in the environment and heritage, and develop, promote and grow the arts sector and screen industries by providing information, grants and in-kind financial assistance targeted at heritage, history, achieving sustainable environmental practices, addressing climate change, natural resource management, regional museums and arts and film industries.

This is achieved by facilitating grants schemes and providing in-kind advice and assistance to support community members in the creation, promotion and maintenance of cultural assets, including heritage listed places and objects, and for protection of natural assets. The Agency also promotes the continued growth of a flourishing arts sector by providing opportunities for artists and arts organisations to develop new work and reach new audiences.

4. Assess and advise government on environmental issues arising from proposed land uses and predict and mitigate threats created by floods, climate change, wildfires, invasive species, resource degradation, and nuisance wildlife.

This is achieved by analysing processes affecting, or likely to affect, the Territory's natural and cultural assets, developing options for responses and taking steps designed to minimise impacts on the assets' values.

5. Investigate, monitor, recommend and enforce sustainable utilisation of natural resources including water, native vegetation and wildlife.

This is achieved by measuring, assessing and conducting research to expand the knowledge of our natural resource asset base, and sharing this information with the community, governments and researchers to ensure the sustainable utilisation of these assets.

6. Create commercial, educational and recreational opportunities through the use of natural resources, artistic and creative enterprises and government owned institutions including the Territory Wildlife and Alice Springs Desert Parks, the Araluen Arts Centre, Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory, heritage buildings, botanic gardens, and the parks estates.

This is achieved by engaging in strategic partnerships to deliver education and tourism outcomes based on natural and cultural assets and linked to arts and cultural events and performances through government owned institutions.

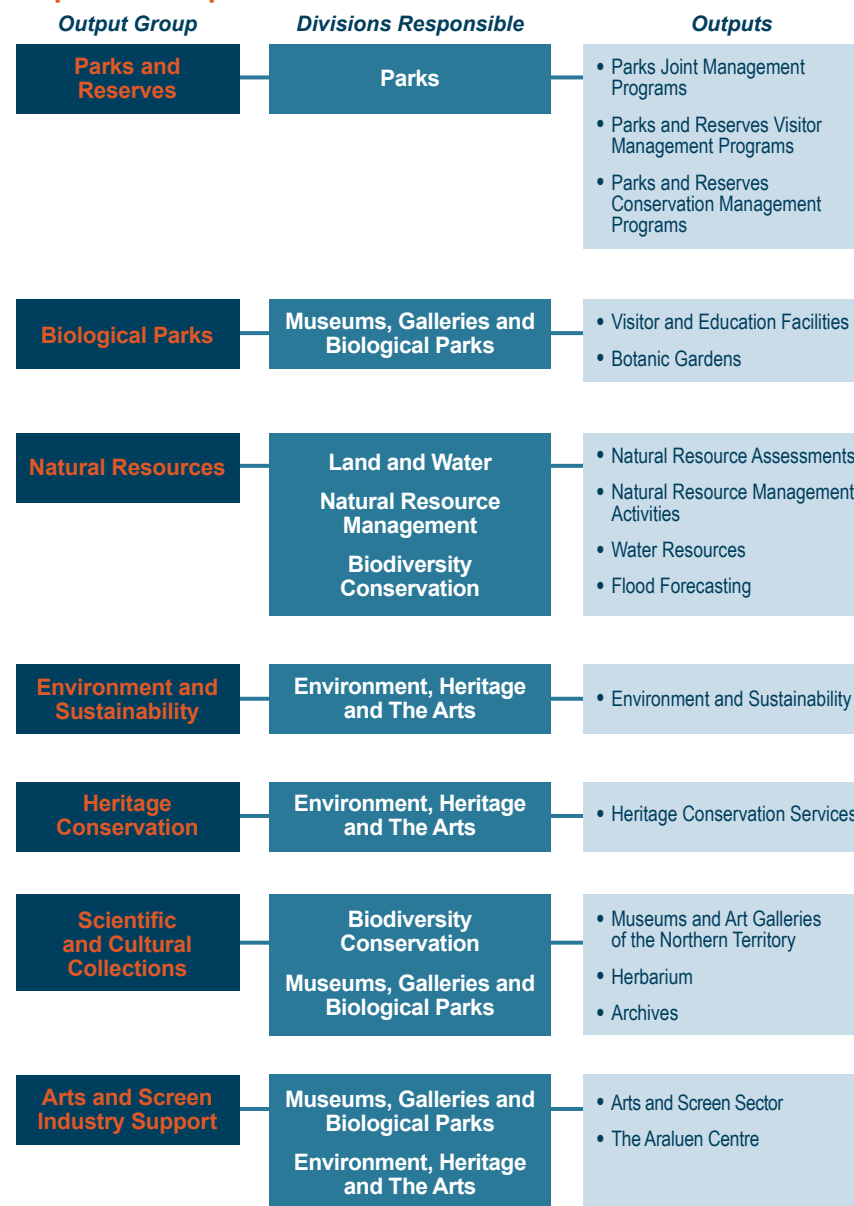
Operational Structure

The Agency's Operational Structure and Outputs (service delivery) contribute to the achievement of planned Strategic Outcomes. The Operational Structure includes Corporate Support Services that service all areas in the Agency. Detail of these Output Groups and the Outcomes they deliver are detailed on the following pages. The Agency's [Organisational Structure](#) is detailed on page 15.

Territory Wildlife Parks Operational Structure



Department Operational Structure



Strategic Outcomes

Output Group: Parks and Reserves

This Output Group primarily contributes to the following Strategic Outcomes:

Conservation for posterity the Territory's parks and reserves

Creation of commercial educational and recreational opportunities based on the parks estate

A Park or Reserve is an area of land managed by the Parks and Wildlife Commission for the purpose of conservation and public enjoyment. Parks and Reserves are declared under Section 12 of the [Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act](#) and are managed as a Park or Reserve by agreement, lease or other legal instrument.

The objective of this Output Group is to manage the Northern Territory's system of 87 Parks and Reserves spread across the Territory. This involves protecting their biodiversity and creating commercial, educational and recreational opportunities for visitors and the Territory community. By achieving these functions, it provides a core for regional development and economic growth.

Output Group: Biological Parks

This Output Group primarily contributes to the following Strategic Outcome:

Creation of commercial educational and recreational opportunities through the use of government owned institutions including the Territory Wildlife Park, Alice Springs Desert Park, botanic gardens and the parks estate

A Biological Park uses and integrates the public functions of zoos, botanic gardens and museums in order to allow the public to make connections between animals, habitats, plants, landscapes, different cultures and themselves.

Biological Parks build a great range of educational and recreational outcomes through these connections. When Biological Parks are developed in a highly interactive way they become major tourist attractions. Biological Parks also breed threatened species as part of scientifically designed species management programs.

The Northern Territory has four government owned Biological Parks; the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens, the Territory Wildlife Park at Berry Springs, the Window on the Wetlands Visitor Centre at Beatrice Hill and the Alice Springs Desert Park. The Territory Wildlife Park and the Alice Springs Desert Park form the Territory Wildlife Parks Government Business Division, the non commercial aspects of which are facilitated through this Output Group.

The objective of Biological Parks is to create displays of native plants and animals that replicate natural habitats and botanical gardens. They:

- Provide opportunities for the community to experience and learn about the Territory's natural flora and fauna.
- Provide commercial, educational and recreational opportunities for Territorians and visitors.
- Contribute to community awareness about the conservation of the Territory's flora and fauna.

The Biological Parks also support the Territory's tourism-based economy by attracting visitors, retaining them longer in the Territory, and providing an introduction to the Territory's Parks and Reserves.

Output Group: **Natural Resources**

This Output Group primarily contributes to the following Strategic Outcomes:

Protecting threatened wildlife

Investigating, monitoring, recommending and enforcing sustainable utilisation of water, native vegetation and wildlife

Assessing and advising government on environmental issues arising from proposed land uses and prediction and mitigation of threats caused by floods, wildfires, climate change, invasive species, resource degradation and nuisance wildlife

Natural resources refers to the Territory's unique natural assets and encompasses land, vegetation, biodiversity and water management. It is the Territory's largely pristine and natural environment that provides a key foundation in the Territory's unique identity.

The objective of this Output Group is to assess, manage and conserve the natural resources of the Northern Territory. This is achieved by providing integrated support, advisory, monitoring and regulatory services in respect of the Territory's natural resources. It also involves the mitigation of potential threats, including erosion, weeds, bushfires, floods and feral animals, with the involvement of the community and land managers. The Output Group provides central mechanisms for sustainable use of the renewable natural resources of the Northern Territory.

Output Group: **Environment and Sustainability**

This Output Group primarily contributes to the following Strategic Outcomes:

Assessing and advising government on environmental issues arising from proposed land uses, climate change and resource degradation.

Supporting community involvement in the environment by providing information, grant funding and in-kind assistance.

Protecting the environment is a key component in conserving the Territory's natural assets. Environment protection requires the Government, industry and the community to be well informed about relevant Government policy and regulatory frameworks.

The objective of this Output Group is to advise Government about managing the risks of detrimental impacts on the environment arising from proposed land uses.

Output Group: **Heritage Conservation**

This Output Group supports the conservation of the Northern Territory's heritage and primarily contributes to the following Strategic Outcomes:

Protecting heritage sites and objects

Conserving for posterity the Territory's historic buildings

Heritage Conservation relates to preservation and conservation of cultural assets including the built environment and sites of historical significance. The Territory's identity is forged on its complex social history and an improved understanding of how that history and diversity can contribute to our capacity to care for country and seas.

Output Group: **Scientific and Cultural Collections**

This Output Group primarily contributes to the following Strategic Outcomes:

Conserving for posterity the Territory's permanent museum and art gallery collection.

Creating commercial, educational and recreational opportunities through the use of Government owned institutions including the Araluen Arts Centre and Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory.

The Northern Territory holds a number of key cultural and scientific collections for the purposes of collection, conservation, exhibition and research into the Territory's natural, historical and cultural heritage. It is important to record the environmental and cultural history of the Northern Territory and the surrounding region in order to increase our understanding of critical contemporary issues in science, the environment and society and create new knowledge as a basis for future understanding, enhancing opportunities to make sense of our world.

These collections include:

- Natural sciences, cultural, historic and art collections held in the Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory in both Darwin and Alice Springs.
- Northern Territory Archives Service in Darwin and Alice Springs.
- The Strehlow Research Centre collection in Alice Springs.
- The Herbarium in Palmerston.

The objective of this Output Group is to preserve and provide access to the Northern Territory's natural, scientific and cultural heritage by enhancing and preserving for posterity, the Territory's permanent cultural and scientific collections to serve visitor and community needs.

Output Group: Arts and Screen Industry Support

This Output Group primarily contributes to the following Strategic Outcomes:

Supporting community involvement in developing, promoting and growing the arts sector and screen industries by providing information, grant funding and in-kind assistance

Creating commercial, educational and recreational opportunities through the use of artistic and creative enterprises and government owned institutions.

Preservation and conservation of Territory history and culture goes beyond the physical representations of culture in the built environment to the social heritage represented through artistic expression.

Arts and Screen Industry Support provides funding to arts organisations, development opportunities for creative expression, support to festivals, grants for arts and screen projects and training and development opportunities for film makers and artists. It aims to provide access to the Northern Territory's natural and social heritage, support artistic development and provide a link to national and international cultural data – enhancing opportunities to be informed, entertained and inspired.

Government Business Division: Territory Wildlife Parks

This Government Business Division primarily contributes to the following Strategic Outcomes:

Creating commercial, educational and recreational opportunities through the government owned institutions the Territory Wildlife Park and Alice Springs Desert Park, by:

Providing a quality experience to visitors through the presentation of flora and fauna in a variety of natural habitats

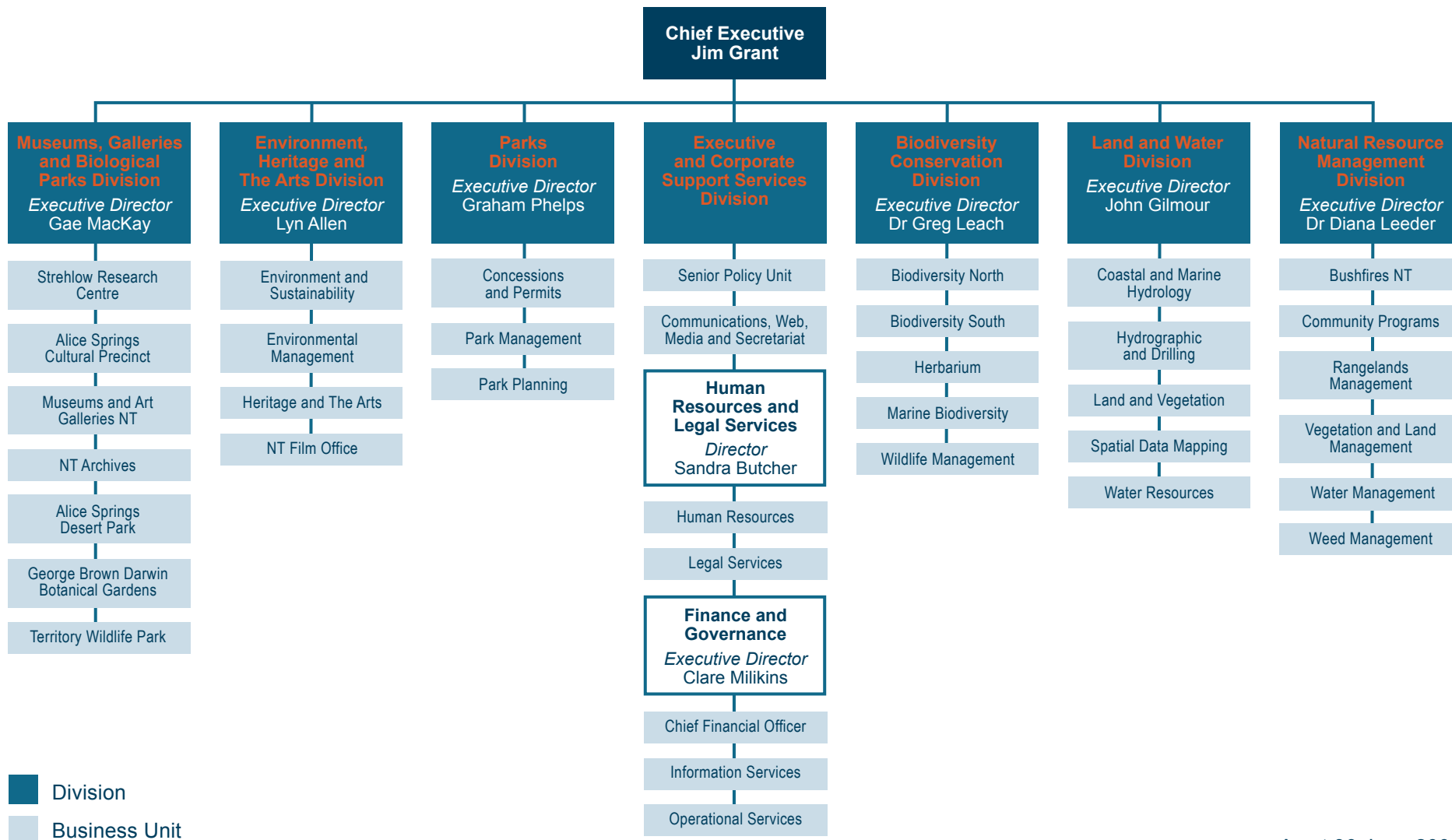
Creating a visitor experience that contributes to the growth and development of the Territory's Tourism industry.

Territory Wildlife Parks is a Government Business Division responsible for managing the Territory Wildlife Park at Berry Springs and the Alice Springs Desert Park. Both Parks showcase the Territory's unique flora and fauna in a natural environment that is both inviting and interesting for visitors.

These two Parks are key tourism attractions in their regions and act as a catalyst for visitors to extend their stay in the regions, with subsequent benefits for the tourism industry as a whole.

Organisational Chart

The organisational chart for the Agency indicates its physical and administrative structure, with six divisions and their associated business units, supported by the Corporate Support Services Division.



As at 30 June 2008

Achievements

Output Group: Parks and Reserves

Visitor Facilities

- Completed an \$85 000 upgrade of the Palm Valley campground at Finke Gorge National Park near Alice Springs with improved layout of sites, installation of new gas barbeques and reticulation, and new shade structures; visitor facilities at Channel Point Coast Reserve, which included a camping area and boat ramp at a cost of \$142 000.
- Constructed a new visitor interpretation amphitheatre at Ormiston Gorge in the West MacDonnell National Park near Alice Springs. This facility will be used for a range of activities involving interaction between rangers, visitors and school groups.
- Opened two new shelters and environmentally designed toilets on the Larapinta Trail near Alice Springs, on Section 10 near the Finke River and at the junction of Sections 2 and 3 beside Jay Creek.
- Invested approximately \$80 000 in erosion control and stabilisation of thermal pool banks, at the thermal pools in Elsey National Park, near Katherine. Works also included a section of covered walkway and new interpretation for visitors on the Little Red Flying Fox.

Joint Management

- Finalised the Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve Joint Management Plan, the first operational Joint Management Plan under the 2005 joint management provisions of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*, and completed community consultation on the draft Joint Management Plan for the Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve.
- Implemented the Garig Ganuk Barlu National Park (Marine section) Plan of Management. A monitoring program, consistent with recommendations within the Plan, for marine fauna, including turtles and dolphins, was commenced in collaboration with Traditional Owners.
- Employed Joint Management Planners in the Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs regions to progress the development of Joint Management Plans over the next two to three years.

Planning

- Commenced a comprehensive assessment of the natural values of the Parks estate as a basis for assessing priorities and resource allocation for the future management of Parks' wildlife values. The results will aid an organisational review of the Parks Division within the Agency in 2008-09 and assist in the development of Park profiles and Statements of Management Intent.

Output Group: Biological Parks

- Hosted 5 647 Territory school students free of charge at the Alice Springs Desert Park and the Territory Wildlife Park.
- Prepared the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens Draft Development Plan 2008 – 2013 as a continuation of the Gardens' Masterplan.
- Redeveloped Children's Garden at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens to attract more visitors and to enhance visitor, in particular children's, experience and safety.
- Attained 100 per cent Indigenous employment at Window on the Wetlands, in line with Traditional Owners' aspirations for future joint management of the facility, and signed an agreement with the Limilngan-Wulna (Land Holding) Aboriginal Corporation, Traditional Owners of Ludawei (Window on the Wetlands), committing support for employment, training and business and sustainable economic opportunities.
- Discovered two new wild populations of rare plant species: *Eremophila maculata var brevifolia* and *Acacia tenuior*. Collected *Olearia arida* (off-park) for the first time since 1873 and achieved its subsequent successful propagation, in conjunction with the Northern Territory Herbarium (on-park).

Awards

- Received the 2008 Australasian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria Research Award for the red-tailed phascogale research program at the Alice Springs Desert Park. The research project aimed to identify the most successful release strategy for captive born animals, including investigating optimum age for release, as well as the most appropriate breeding regime and reproductive strategy for this threatened species.

Output Group: Natural Resources

Research and Projects

- Published the book, *Lost from our landscape: threatened species of the Northern Territory*, which was a comprehensive review of species on the Northern Territory Threatened Species List. The book's aim was to raise the profile of conservation issues and provide information and advice to landholders and the community.
- Completed major programs that documented the responses of biodiversity to pastoralism (Pigeon Hole project, Victoria River District), in collaboration with the pastoral industry; and major programs that examined the links between pastoral land condition measures and biodiversity. These programs have helped inform pastoralists about the way they manage pastoral activities and the biodiversity consequences, that biodiversity outcomes can be measured and balanced against grazing outcomes, and how best environmental sustainability can be achieved on pastoral lands.
- Completed, in collaboration with Indigenous landowners and rangers, a five year program translocating northern quolls to islands off north eastern Arnhem Land. This was a conservation response to the threat of cane toads and resulted in the quoll population increasing from the original 64 founders to more than 5600 individuals.
- Completed the major report *Marine biodiversity survey of seagrasses and inshore soft bottom habitats of the South East Van Diemen Gulf and North West Arnhem Land between the Goulburn Islands and Castlereagh Bay, Northern Territory*. This work was in collaboration with Aboriginal Sea Ranger Groups and Traditional Owners.
- Completed research for a major study of the responses of biodiversity to clearing and habitat fragmentation in the Daly region. This study identified the native plant and animal species that are most disadvantaged by intensification of development, and the landscape configurations that were best suited for balancing biodiversity and development pressures.
- Completed the Desert Fire project which lays the foundation for improving fire management outcomes across central Australia. This project documented the scale of uncontrolled wildfires in the Tanami Desert which threaten biodiversity, and is the first step in developing a collaborative fire management plan for the region. Consultations were conducted with pastoral and Aboriginal stakeholders in the Tanami to discuss issues pertinent to the development of a fire management strategy. The project also developed best practice guidelines for the management of fire on conservation reserves in central Australia to protect biodiversity.
- Contributed to the ongoing success of the West Arnhem Fire Management Agreement which included the abatement of more than 80 000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions above the target.

Feral Animal Management

- Coordinated a large-scale strategic feral animal management program in the Katherine region in partnership with the Indigenous Land Corporation, Natural Resource Management Board and Aboriginal Benefits Account.

- Developed a whole-of-government process to use 1080 poison to control pest animals. This program involved working with the Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Mines, non-Government organisations, and the local community, and aims to conserve populations of wild dingoes while also enabling pastoralists to protect their stock from feral dog predation.

Water Allocation Planning

- Declared the Alice Springs Water Resource Strategy 2006-2015 as a Water Allocation Plan, and developed and released for public comment the Tindall Limestone Aquifer, (Katherine) draft Water Allocation Plan.

Drilling and Hydrographic Programs

- Investigated and drilled new town water supply for Ngukurr (south east Arnhem Land), Urapunga (south east of Katherine) and Santa Teresa (south east of Alice Springs) for the Power and Water Corporation.
- Published Katherine Flood Warning Maps for Category 1, 2 and 3 on the Agency's and Northern Territory Emergency Services' web site, for use as a flood warning tool that indicates the potential severity of the flood events.
- Obtained \$700 000 in external funding from the Bureau of Meteorology for upgrading and telemetering 60 gauging stations, and upgraded four existing gauging stations at Douglas River, Flora River, Adelaide River at Arnhem Highway and McArthur River at Borroloola to allow retrieval of river height data in real time.

Monitoring and Advice

- Completed an Acid Sulfate Soil Investigation of Darwin Harbour to assist land use planners and developers know where land at risk of acid production occurs, and ensure appropriate management is applied to avoid major environmental damage.

- Worked with state and federal agencies to develop the National 2007 Australian Collaborative Rangelands Information System (ACRIS) Rangeland Condition Report. The Report contains the first comprehensive analysis of the condition of Australian rangelands. Information for the Territory came from the Agency's Tier 1 Monitoring database.

Managing Key Weed Species

- Contained the spread of cabomba in the Darwin River, with a limited number of seedlings and juvenile plants found during the year; protected the Top End wetlands from the infestation and establishment of *Mimosa pigra* by facilitating active control by Aboriginal ranger groups and undertaking surveys; and worked towards the eradication of *Prickly acacia* and *Mesquite* in the Northern Territory through the implementation of eradication programs across all known areas of infestation in conjunction with landholders and Aboriginal ranger groups.
- Adopted the Northern Territory Weed Risk Management System as a tool to identify the weed risk of plants and to inform decision making on the nomination of species for declaration.

Output Group: Environment and Sustainability

Climate Change

- Coordinated the implementation of the Northern Territory Strategy for Greenhouse Action 2006, which included providing advice to Government on potential new Territory climate change initiatives, and contributed to the development of a new Northern Territory climate change policy.
- Represented Northern Territory Government interests by leading the Territory's involvement in areas of national climate change policy development. This included a state and territory proposal for a National Emissions Trading Scheme and the Garnaut Review of the Impacts of Climate Change on Australia.

Interim Environment Protection Agency Board

- Provided secretariat services to the interim Environment Protection Agency Board and advice to the Minister to finalise and pass Environment Protection Authority legislation.

EnvironmeNT Grants

- Contributed to improved environmental management in the community by implementing the fourth round of the \$480 000 [EnvironmeNT Grants Program](#) (which included an additional \$20 000 offered through the Packaging Stewardship Forum). In total 28 EnvironmeNT Grants were offered to individuals, 12 EnvironmeNT Grants were offered to schools with five ongoing Operational EnvironmeNT Grants continued and one new Operational EnvironmeNT Grant offered. As part of the Re-Thinking Waste in Schools Challenge, an additional 33 infrastructure grants of up to \$500 were offered to schools.

Output Group: Heritage Conservation**Heritage Register Additions**

- Declared 12 places and one object, the Sandfly locomotive (the first movable object to be declared), as registered heritage places and objects under the [Heritage Conservation Act](#). This is the first time an item of ‘moveable heritage’ has been protected under the Act. The Sandfly was the first locomotive to operate on the Palmerston (Darwin) to Pine Creek Railway (North Australia Railway or NAR) in 1887 and was also the longest serving locomotive operating on the NAR with a career spanning 63 years. This engine was the only one of its class to work on the NAR.

Repairs and Maintenance Program

- Implemented the \$1 million annual Northern Territory Government Repairs and Maintenance Program to government-owned heritage places including; Cape Don Lighthouse Precinct, Vestey’s Tank, Fannie Bay Gaol, Qantas Hangar, Katherine North Australia Railway Bridge, Tennant Creek Telegraph Station, Alice Springs Telegraph Station and Old Courthouse.

Output Group: Scientific and Cultural Collections**Indigenous culture**

- Participated in the Repatriation of Indigenous Cultural Property Program through extensive consultation and improved coordination with key partners, relevant agencies and Indigenous communities, and completed the successful repatriation of several important men’s ceremonial objects from the Strehlow Collection to their identified Traditional Owners. The objects will be separated from the main collection and kept in the secure vault of the Strehlow Research Centre in accordance with the wishes of the Traditional Owners.
- Held the 24th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art, with 104 works on display to the public. More than 62 000 people viewed the exhibition, with more than 1500 people attending the opening night’s ceremony at Darwin’s Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.

Collections

- Digitised over 80 per cent of the Strehlow Research Centre’s image collection. The collection has approximately 6500 black and white images dating back to the 1890s from various sources and exactly 4620 colour transparencies taken by Ted Strehlow between 1950 and 1975.
- Transferred over 180 collections/series of archives from Northern Territory Government agencies or acquired from private sources. This is a considerable increase from previous years and is attributed to a focussed priority on processing archives collections.

Output Group: Arts and Screen Industry Support

Arts Grants

- Distributed \$5.45 million in Northern Territory Government arts and screen grants funding to 208 recipients across the NT to support and develop the artistic and cultural potential of the Territory. This includes the provision of \$272,000 towards screen grant recipients, \$1.37 million towards major, regional and remote festivals and \$3.8 million to 27 key arts organisations. The grants ensure that all Territory residents have access to a variety of arts and cultural activities either as an audience or as active participants.

Film and Screen

- Provided logistical support, through the Northern Territory Government's Inter-Agency Film Task Force, for Baz Luhrmann's *Australia*, filmed for 11 days in Darwin. This included the support of six industry attachments to work on the feature film, resulting in skills development of Territorians.
- Attracted and secured the feature film *Balibo* to be filmed in the Northern Territory by providing a range of location stills (images), logistical support and financial support of \$50 000. The film is expected to inject up to \$1 million into the Territory economy, and provide employment opportunities for Territorians as cast and crew.
- Supported Yarning Up, a documentary making initiative, through the Screen Grants Program with four documentaries being completed in remote Top End communities. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Australian Film Commission and National Indigenous Television Service were partners in this initiative providing \$85 000. This initiative builds the creative talents in the Territory screen industry.

Business Line: Territory Wildlife Parks

- Commenced guided spotlighting night walks and guided morning bird walks to diversify the experiences available to visitors and to increase the use of the park outside standard opening hours.
- Awarded Northern Territory Brolga Award for Major Tourist Attraction.

Priorities

Output Group: Parks and Reserves

- Finalise the transfer of title and leaseback arrangements for the Parks and Reserves affected by the *Parks and Reserves (Frameworks for the Future) Act*.
- Undertake public consultation on Draft Joint Management Plans for West MacDonnell and Watarrka National Parks, Black Jungle / Lambells Lagoon and Harrison Dam Conservation Reserves, Flora River and Fogg Dam Nature Parks, and Melacca Swamp Conservation Area.
- Develop the management plan for Howard Springs Nature Park waterhole, near Darwin, and develop the aquatic wildlife viewing experience.
- Develop a Parks Indigenous Employment and Training and Strategy in collaboration with the Northern and Central Land Councils, in accordance with the Joint Management Agreement.
- Implement stage one of the Red Centre Way Visitor Centre to enhance the experience of visitors to the West MacDonnell and Watarrka National Parks; implement stage one of upgrades to Litchfield National Park visitor facilities and commence developments at Darwin's Leanyer Recreation Park.
- Complete the Parks values and priorities assessment project and implement major threat abatement plans on priority Parks and Reserves.

Output Group: Biological Parks

- Implement a Voluntourism Program to attract 18 to 30 year olds travelling on working holiday visas to the Alice Springs Desert Park. Programs will provide opportunities for participants to discover the extraordinary landscape of Central Australia and the Top End while contributing to scientific research and biodiversity conservation.

Output Group: Natural Resources

- Identify the impacts and susceptibilities of marine and terrestrial biodiversity to climate change, and develop appropriate monitoring, adaptation and management responses.
- Undertake a major experimental study of the responses of biodiversity to land clearing in the Daly area.
- Complete a Northern Territory Marine Protected Areas Strategy and a Northern Territory Marine Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.
- Finalise the review into the crocodile harvest with industry, Aboriginal groups and the Australian Government and implement the outcomes to ensure the continued sustainability of the industry; and work with the Australian Government and consult with Indigenous groups and other stakeholders to increase the number of crocodile eggs allowed to be harvested under the management plan.
- Achieve accreditation of the training programs for aerial platform shooting and 1080 baiting management and use.
- Develop an evidence-based policy for environmental flows for Northern Territory estuaries.
- Declare a Water Allocation Plan for the Tindall Limestone Aquifer, Katherine and develop Water Allocation Plans in Mataranka, Daly, Darwin Rural and Western Davenport.
- Complete stage one of the *Water Act* review and commencement of the amended Act and Regulations.
- Install new and upgrade existing monitoring sites in the Daly River, McArthur River and Upper Roper River catchments to deliver maximum improvements to the Territory's flood monitoring system; and upgrade the Todd River flood forecast model to incorporate redundant data and improve the output formats.
- Conduct investigative drilling and provision of water supply for Miniyeri (south of Katherine) and Galiwinku (Elcho Island).

- Investigate and develop methods to monitor and report on the effects of climate change on the rangelands of the Northern Territory and contribute to the management of climate change through soil carbon information and water resource impacts.
- Complete the review of the *Pastoral Land Act* and implement the revised Act.
- Review the Northern Territory Weed Management Strategy to complement the Australia Weed Strategy and ensure national objectives are incorporated in a manner appropriate to the Territory's environmental, social and economic context.
- Develop compliance and monitoring programs under the *Northern Territory Weeds Management Act 2001*.
- Develop Weed Management Plans, in conjunction with stakeholders, for high priority weed species such as bellyache bush, mesquite, prickly acacia and mimosa

Output Group: Environment and Sustainability

- Improve understanding of air quality in the Darwin region, and the capacity to manage it, by establishing a comprehensive air quality monitoring system for Darwin.
- Continue to pursue the Northern Territory Government's commitment to addressing climate change by participating in the development and implementation of Northern Territory and national climate change policies.
- Assess options for improved waste management and resource recovery by participating in an investigation of the merits of a national container deposit system under the Environment Protection and Heritage Council.

Output Group: Heritage Conservation

- Finalise the new *Heritage Act* to go before the Legislative Assembly.

Output Group: Scientific and Cultural Collections

- Progress the development of the *Building Our Museums Sector 10 year plan* to address strategic and infrastructure planning issues for the museum sector in the Northern Territory.
- Continue to foster museum to museum relationships within the immediate South East Asian region of eastern Indonesia and Timor-Leste through the delivery of international training programs, research and exhibitions.
- Determine a strategy to achieve long term archive storage and accommodation requirements for the Northern Territory Archives Service in Darwin.

Output Group: Arts and Screen Industry Sector

- Develop a Creative Industries Framework which will build on the previous Creative Communities Arts and Cultural Policy, Northern Territory Film Office and the Indigenous Arts Building Strong Arts Business strategies.
- Stage the 2008 Regional Arts Australia national conference 'art at the heart' in October in Alice Springs. This includes hosting the Cultural Ministers Council prior to the conference to showcase the arts and cultural achievements of the Northern Territory.
- Finalise the concept plan for the Alice Springs Cultural Precinct, of which the Araluen Arts Centre is a key component, with a community consultation process integral to the final outcome.

Business Line: Territory Wildlife Parks

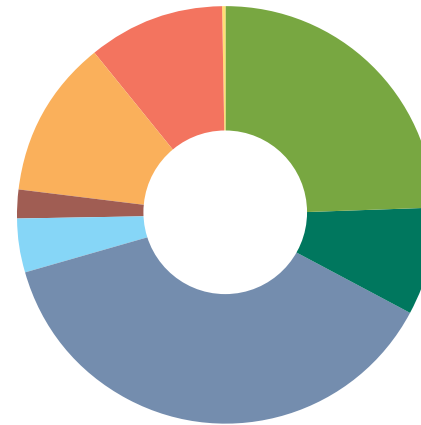
- Diversify the current range of tours and increase the guided spotlight night walks and guided morning bird walks to increase revenue and the use of the Territory Wildlife Park and Alice Springs Desert Park outside standard opening hours.
- Complete the Master Planning process at the Alice Springs Desert Park and commence a new concession arrangement for the café and gift shop at the Territory Wildlife Park.

Income and Expenditure at a Glance

Income by Output Group – Department

The total operating income for the Department was \$122.48 million. The Department receives its principal source of revenue, 81 per cent or \$99 million, from the Northern Territory Government as output appropriation. The balance is made up of grants and subsidies received from the Australian Government and other external sources for specific purposes, income received from the sale of goods and services, and notional revenue to recognise service charges of the Department of Corporate and Information Services. Output appropriation is allocated to Output Groups on a budgeted 'breakeven' basis after allowing for depreciation.

Income by Output Group is presented graphically at right.



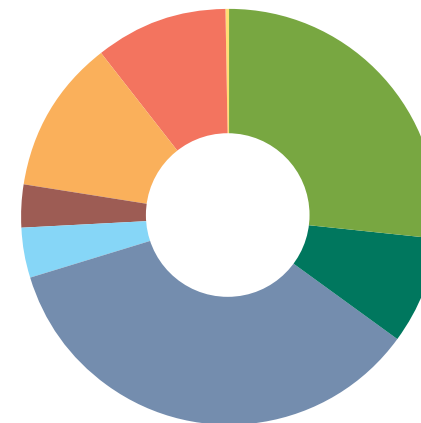
| Output Groups | Income |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Parks and Reserves | \$29.98M |
| Biological Parks | \$10.47M |
| Natural Resources | \$46.03M |
| Environment and Sustainability | \$5.36M |
| Heritage Conservation | \$2.57M |
| Scientific and Cultural Collections | \$14.94M |
| Arts and Screen Industry Support | \$12.88M |
| Environment Protection Authority* | \$0.25M |
| Total | \$122.48M |

Expenditure by Output Group – Department

The operating expenses for the Department were \$127.65million. Employee expenses make up 41 per cent of the Department's expenses and totalled \$51.8 million. Administrative expenses totalled \$54.9 million and comprised of purchase of goods and services, repairs and maintenance, depreciation and amortisation, and services from the Northern Territory Department of Corporate and Information Services rendered free of charge. The Department paid out \$20.1 million in grants and subsidies including a Community Service Obligation payment of \$7.9 million to the Territory Wildlife Parks Government Business Division.

Expenditure by Output Group is presented graphically at right.

Detailed Operating Statements for the Department can be found in the Financial Statements section of this report at page 142.



| Output Groups | Expenditure |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Parks and Reserves | \$34.30M |
| Biological Parks | \$10.69M |
| Natural Resources | \$44.73M |
| Environment and Sustainability | \$5.12M |
| Heritage Conservation | \$4.13M |
| Scientific and Cultural Collections | \$15.22M |
| Arts and Screen Industry Support | \$13.34M |
| Environment Protection Authority* | \$0.12M |
| Total | \$127.65M |

* This Output Group's financial accountability lies with this Agency. However its achievements and priorities are reported separately within the Annual Report of the Environment Protection Agency 2007-08

Revenue – Territory Wildlife Parks – Government Business Division

The Territory Wildlife Parks’ total operating revenue for 2007-08 was \$10.56 million.

The principal source of income for the Parks is \$7.9 million received as a Community Service Obligation payment from the Department for the performance of non-commercial functions including tourism industry support, biodiversity, education and botanical gardens management at the Alice Springs Desert Park.

The Parks’ commercial income includes admission fees to the Parks, sales of goods, interest and income from the business trading within the Alice Springs Desert Park.

Revenue of the Territory Wildlife Parks is presented graphically at right.



| Government Business Division | | Revenue |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| ■ | Territory Wildlife Park | \$5.48M |
| ■ | Alice Springs Desert Park | \$5.08M |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | \$10.56M |

Expenditure – Territory Wildlife Parks – Government Business Division

Territory Wildlife Parks’ total operating expenses totalled \$12.62 million.

Employee expenses make up 47 per cent of the Parks’ expenses and totalled \$6 million. Expenses from ordinary activities of \$4.8 million comprised of purchases of goods and services, repairs and maintenance, property management, and services from the Northern Territory Department of Corporate and Information Services rendered free of charge. Depreciation and amortisation expenses for the year totalled \$1.9 million.

Expenditure by the Territory Wildlife Parks is presented graphically at right.

Detailed Operating Statements for the Territory Wildlife Parks can be found in the Financial Statements section of this report on page 177.



| Government Business Division | | Expenditure |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| ■ | Territory Wildlife Park | \$6.57M |
| ■ | Alice Springs Desert Park | \$6.05M |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | \$12.62M |

Regional Snapshot



Highlights: East Arnhem Region

- Completed, in collaboration with Indigenous landowners and rangers, a five year program translocating northern quolls to islands off north-eastern Arnhem Land. This was a conservation response to the threat of cane toads and resulted in the quoll population increasing from the original 64 founders to more than 5600 individuals.
- Undertook a translocation of the threatened golden bandicoot to Guluwuru Island (Wessel Islands), in collaboration with Indigenous landowners and rangers, to provide greater conservation security from its current range in the Northern Territory of only one island (Marchinbar Island).
- Undertook a major project in association with Indigenous ranger groups that investigated the status and management of the northern hopping-mouse on Groote Eylandt
- Conducted sea turtle research and monitoring with Indigenous communities at Borroloola and Groote Eylandt.
- Worked collaboratively with Charles Darwin University, the Australian Institute of Marine Science and Rio Tinto Alcan to develop a hydrodynamic and water quality model of Melville Bay, Nhulunbuy. The model will be used to evaluate the impact of trade waste discharges and to assist Rio Tinto Alcan develop marine water management plans.
- Investigated and drilled new town water supply for Ngukurr (south east Arnhem Land) for the Power and Water Corporation.

Future Priorities: East Arnhem Region

- Complete a pilot marine biodiversity survey and assessment of the coastal and marine ecosystems of north east Arnhem Land as part of the Northern Territory Marine Biodiversity Mapping and Survey Program.
- Investigative drilling and provision of water supply for Galiwinku (Elcho Island).



Highlights: Barkly Region

- Completed community consultation on the draft Joint Management Plan for the Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve in accordance with the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act.
- Completed a project on the ecology and management of the flock bronzewing pigeon.
- Implemented the \$1 million annual Northern Territory Government Repairs and Maintenance

Program to government-owned heritage places which included Tennant Creek Telegraph Station, Bonney Well and Barrow Creek Telegraph Station.

Future Priorities: Barkly Region

- Ensure the Joint Management Plan for the Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve is passed through the Legislative Assembly and operational in 2008-09.



Highlights: Katherine Region

- Completed a cross-cultural biological knowledge project in Gregory National Park, the most linguistically and biologically comprehensive project undertaken with Aboriginal elders on a National Park. Language names, scientific names and common English names were prepared for plants and animals in the Park. Publication of this material will allow for improved natural resource management by the Agency,

land councils and ranger groups by providing a comprehensive, accurate guide to the plants and animals in the area.

- Completed upgrades to the visitor access crossings between the first and second gorges at Nitmiluk National Park, near Katherine.
- Invested approximately \$80 000 in erosion control and stabilisation of thermal pool banks at the thermal pools in Eusey National Park, near Katherine. Works also included a section of covered walkway and new interpretation for visitors on the Little Red Flying Fox.
- Successfully implemented control programs for the major weeds Devil's claw and Noogoora burr in the Gregory National Park, near Katherine.
- Formed a Belly-ache Bush Working Group in the Katherine region and commenced control work on this species on cattle properties in the catchment above Flora River Conservation Reserve involving local Aboriginal people.
- Developed and released for public comment the Tindall Limestone Aquifer, (Katherine) draft Water Allocation Plan. The draft Plan was developed in partnership with the Katherine community primarily through the Katherine Water Advisory Committee and the Daly River Management Advisory Committee.

- Investigated and drilled new town water supply for Urapunga (south east of Katherine) for the Power and Water Corporation.
- Published Katherine Flood Warning Maps for Category 1, 2 and 3 on the Agency's and Northern Territory Emergency Services' internet site, for use as a flood warning tool that indicates the potential severity of the flood events.

Future Priorities: Katherine Region

- Declare a Water Allocation Plan for the Tindall Limestone Aquifer, Katherine.
- Investigative drilling and provision of water supply for Miniyeri (south of Katherine)
- Continue improvements to the Mataranka thermal pool board-walk and pool entry, near Katherine.



Highlights: Alice Springs Region

- Finalised the [Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve Joint Management Plan](#), tabled in the Legislative Assembly in May and operational in June. This is the first operational Joint Management Plan under the 2005 joint management provisions of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act.

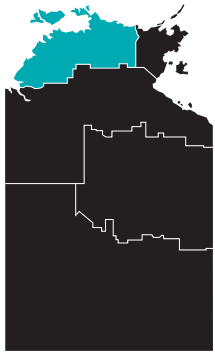
- Completed an \$85 000 upgrade of the Palm Valley campground at Finke Gorge National Park, near Alice Springs, with improved layout of sites, installation of new gas barbeques and reticulation, and new shade structures.
- Constructed a new visitor interpretation amphitheatre at Ormiston Gorge in the West MacDonnell National Park near Alice Springs. This facility will be used for a range of activities involving interaction between rangers, visitors and school groups.

- Completed the Desert Fire project which lays the foundation for improving fire management outcomes across central Australia. This project documented the scale of uncontrolled wildfires in the Tanami Desert which threaten biodiversity, and is the first step in developing a collaborative fire management plan for the region.
- Initiated a vegetation mapping program for the Finke bioregion to enable pastoralists and other landholders to make better informed management decisions.
- Declared the [Alice Springs Water Resource Strategy 2006-2015](#) as a Water Allocation Plan in 2007.
- Conducted the five-yearly review of the [Ti Tree Water Resource Strategy](#) in partnership with the regional community, through the Ti Tree Water Advisory Committee. The review involved evaluation of the Plan's performance indicators and monitoring data.
- Investigated and drilled new town water supply for Santa Teresa (south east of Alice Springs) for the Power and Water Corporation.
- Completed the successful repatriation of several important men's ceremonial objects from the Strehlow Collection to their identified Traditional Owners. Ted Strehlow originally collected these objects in April 1933 from the paternal grandfather of the new owners. The objects will be separated from the main collection and kept in the secure vault of the Strehlow Research Centre in accordance with the wishes of the Traditional Owners.
- Recovered several rare specimens of dromornithid bird, *Barawertornis tedfordi*, from the Pwerte Marnte Marnte locality near Alice Springs.
- Developed and launched the program for the national Regional Arts Australia conference 'art at the heart' and provided funding of \$160000. The conference, to be held in October 2008, will allow delegates to experience the culture and art of the Arrernte people of Alice Springs and bring together the diverse arts world – young and old, contemporary and traditional, Indigenous and non-Indigenous.

- Established the Araluen Arrernte Custodians Reference Group, to advise on Arrernte Aboriginal cultural protocols and to assist with planning and delivery of cultural tourism.
- Established the Corporate Territorian Pass Program for local businesses, providing employees with a 33 per cent discount off the normal price of any Territorian Pass when a minimum of 10 passes are purchased.

Future Priorities: Alice Springs Region

- Ensure the Joint Management Plan for Chambers Pillar Historical Reserve is passed through the Legislative Assembly and operational in 2008-09.
- Implement stage one of the Red Centre Way Visitor Centre to enhance the experience of visitors to the West MacDonnell and Watarrka National Parks near Alice Springs.
- Partner with nature based film festivals using new cinema technology and outdoor screening at the Alice Springs Desert Park theatre facility. This will contribute to the Moving Alice Ahead Indigenous Arts and Culture project and provide strategic links with the Araluen Arts Centre.
- Stage the 2008 Regional Arts Australia national conference 'art at the heart' in October in Alice Springs. This includes hosting the Cultural Ministers Council prior to the conference to showcase the arts and cultural achievements of the Northern Territory.
- Finalise the concept plan for the Alice Springs Cultural Precinct, of which the Araluen Arts Centre is a key component, with a community consultation process integral to the final outcome.



Highlights: Darwin Region

- Implemented the [Garig Ganuk Barlu National Park \(Marine section\) Plan of Management](#). A monitoring program for marine fauna, including turtles and dolphins, was commenced in collaboration with Traditional Owners.
- Completed visitor facilities at Channel Point Coast Reserve, near Darwin, which included a camping area and boat ramp.
- Completed the redevelopment of the Children's Garden at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens to attract more visitors and to enhance visitor, in particular children's, experience and safety. Redeveloped and modernised the Orientation Centre at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens by removing old, outdated information, and opening up the space to make it more inviting to visitors.
- Attained 100 per cent Indigenous employment at Window on the Wetlands, in line with Traditional Owners' aspirations for future joint management of the facility.
- Facilitated and supported the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee in reviewing the [Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management](#) by assisting the Committee in drafting a report on the review and a strategic framework in preparation for public consultation.
- Completed research for a study of the responses of biodiversity to clearing and habitat fragmentation in the Daly region. This study identified the native plant and animal species that are most disadvantaged by intensification of development, and the landscape configurations that were best suited for balancing biodiversity and development pressures.
- Completed a major review of the marine biodiversity of Melville Bay and adjacent coastline of the Dhimurru Indigenous Protected Area, with support from industry partner Rio Tinto Alcan, as part of the Northern Territory Marine Biodiversity Mapping and Survey Program

- Conducted sea turtle research and monitoring with the Tiwi Islands Indigenous community.
- Completed and opened the East Arm Leprosarium Memorial commemorating leprosy sufferers and their carers.
- Provided logistical support, through the Northern Territory Government's Inter-Agency Film Task Force, for the Baz Luhrmann directed Australia, which filmed for 11 days in Darwin. This included the support of six industry attachments to work on the feature film, resulting in skills development of Territorians.

Future Priorities: Darwin Region

- Implement stage one of upgrades to Litchfield National Park, near Darwin, visitor facilities in anticipation of increased visitor numbers and sealing of the Litchfield Park road.
- Complete the [Plan of Management for Howard Springs Nature Park](#).
- Undertake a major experimental study of the responses of biodiversity to land clearing in the Daly area, and develop a conservation plan for the region, working with the Daly River Management Advisory Committee and other stakeholders.
- Improve understanding of air quality in the Darwin region and the capacity to manage it, by establishing a comprehensive air quality monitoring system for Darwin.
- Assist the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee to prepare a revised Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management by undertaking community and stakeholder consultation.
- Progress the development of a Water Quality Protection Plan for Darwin Harbour which incorporates collaborative water quality monitoring and modelling strategies to inform management decisions in the catchment, and ensure that environmental values are maintained and protected.

Corporate Governance



Snapshot

- The Executive Leadership Group (ELG) is the Agency's principal planning and decision making body and met nine times during 2007-08 in Darwin, Katherine, Alice Springs and Cobourg. Initiatives included the refinement of ELG meetings and agenda planning, with a sole focus on the strategic challenges facing the Agency.
- In 2007-08 the Executive Leadership Group (ELG) planned and ran Culture Sensing Workshops with employees across the Agency. The workshops were designed to provide information about the current culture and beliefs within the Agency. They were attended by a range of employees in age, experience and varied work units, and approximately 200 people participated.
- Culture Sensing Workshops highlighted effective feedback as a major issue for staff which determined the need for a Performance Enhancement System (PES). A draft PES was prepared and issued to ELG members, feedback on the PES was provided and it is planned that a trial rollout to selected staff will occur in 2008-09.
- Three Leadership Development Programs were delivered, with 45 senior managers in the Agency attending.
- The Agency continued its Senior Manager Forum workshops in 2007-08, with more than 50 employees attending.
- A planning day with the Minister responsible for the portfolios of Parks and Wildlife and Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage was held in November 2007-08.
- The Agency's Code of Conduct training program was held in Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine and Alice Springs with a total of 139 employees participating.
- The Agency's newly created Procurement Unit established an Agency Procurement Plan Framework.
- The Agency's Audit Committee, established in 2006-07, met twice this financial year on 27 November 2007 and 20 March 2008.
- A series of risk assessment practices and reviews of Agency operations was conducted, including a review of Division 5 and 6 of the [Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act](#) relating to permits and wildlife compliance, an internal audit on the saltwater crocodile egg harvest processes and a security review of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory at Bullocky Point.
- Six external audits were performed by the Auditor-General's Office in 2007-08.
- Work was completed on several major infrastructure projects during 2007-08 including the upgrade of the first and second gorge crossovers at Nitmiluk National Park, development of park infrastructure at Channel Point, which included a boat launching facility, camping ground, roads, parking, interpretive displays, ranger station, accommodation and storage; and upgrade and expansion of visitor facilities in the West MacDonnell National Park.
- The Agency continued to make significant efforts in its aim to be 'green' through an eco-footprint audit, green office initiatives, operational policy changes and reducing its energy usage.
- The Agency had two outstanding legal proceedings of alleged breaches of Acts as at 30 June 2007. Both these proceedings were finalised in the 2007-08 period. The Agency commenced nil legal proceedings for the period 2007-08.
- In 2007-08, the Agency responded to one new formal information request which is yet to be completed.
- The Northern Territory Ombudsman conducted two inquiries with the Agency during 2007-08.
- The Communications and Media Business Unit issued 181 media releases to local, national and international media in relation to the Agency's activities.

Framework

Corporate governance describes the processes by which the Agency is directed, controlled and held to account for its actions. Governance encompasses frameworks of authority, accountability, stewardship, leadership, direction and control exercised throughout the Agency.

Key elements of this framework are the Agency's:

- Management Environment (in terms of how decisions are made, communicated and implemented)
- Leadership and Direction
- Accountability Frameworks
- Identification and Management of Risk
- Legislative Environment
- Performance Reporting.

Significant guidance regarding appropriate public sector governance framework is provided by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) in its publications Public Sector Governance 2003 (Volumes 1 and 2). In developing its governance framework the Agency has adopted the principles advocated by the ANAO – Leadership, Accountability, Integrity, Transparency, Efficiency and Stewardship.

The ANAO models emphasis the importance of the relationships between the elements of good governance, stating that without leadership, ethical conduct and a performance culture support, there would be no governance foundation to build on*.

2007-08 the Agency continued its drive to build leadership capability; recognising the significant impact leadership behaviours and actions have on organisational performance.

Principles of Public Sector Governance

Leadership

Refers to the tone at the top and is critical to achieving a commitment to good governance across the Agency.

Accountability

Process whereby the Agency and its employees are responsible for their decisions and actions and submit themselves to appropriate external scrutiny.

Integrity

Relates to straightforward dealing and completeness. It is based upon honesty and objectivity and high standards of propriety and probity in the stewardship of public funds and resources and management of the Agency's affairs. It is dependent on the effectiveness of the control framework, influenced by legislation and ultimately determined by the personal standards and professionalism of the individuals within the organisation.

Transparency

Is required to ensure stakeholders, including the Legislative Assembly and the community, have confidence in the decision making processes and actions of the Agency, in the management of its activities and its employees.

Efficiency

The best use of resources in order to forward the organisation with a commitment to evidence-based strategies for improvement.

Stewardship

Agency employees are stewards of the powers and resources of the Territory allocated to the Agency to manage. It is important that the Agency is governed so that its capacity to service government and the community is maintained and improved.

Management Environment

Decision Making

The Executive Leadership Group (ELG) is the Agency's decision making body on governance matters. The Chief Executive has the primary responsibility for providing strategic leadership and systems development for the Agency.

As at 30 June 2008, the ELG was comprised of the Chief Executive, eight Executive Directors and two Directors. Its composition includes representatives from all Output Groups of the Agency including the Government Business Division, along with Corporate Support business units from Human Resources and Legal Services, and Finance and Governance. Other Agency officers attend ELG meetings as required to make presentations to the group.

The ELG is the Agency's principal planning and decision making body and met nine times during 2007-08 in Darwin, Katherine, Alice Springs and Cobourg. Initiatives included the refinement of ELG meetings and agenda planning, with a sole focus on the strategic challenges facing the Agency.

Jim Grant – Chief Executive Agency



Jim was appointed Chief Executive of the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts in 2008, and previously held the position of Executive Director Museums, Galleries and Biological Parks. He has a background in environmental education, commercial wildlife tourism development, interpretation, and innovative delivery of education for sustainable development. Jim has worked for Melbourne Zoo, Earth Sanctuaries in South Australia and the Gould League/Gould Group. His skills are in organisational culture change and developing visitor experiences that deliver commercial, social and educational outcomes.

Dr Diana Leeder – Executive Director Natural Resource Management



Prior to joining the Northern Territory Government in July 2003, Diana worked in local government, firstly in New South Wales regional library services until 1985 and then in Community Services with the Darwin City Council. Diana's academic background is in German language and literature but she also has formal qualifications in librarianship and urban and regional planning. She is a Graduate Member of the Planning Institute of Australia, an Associate of the Australian Library and Information Association and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Diana is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Darwin Entertainment Centre.

Gae MacKay – Executive Director Museums, Galleries and Biological Parks



Gae has held management and leadership positions in Western Australia and the Northern Territory for the past ten years. Gae was employed by the Western Australian Government as the Kimberley Regional Manager, and as the Coordinator of several functional areas including Interpretation and Visitor Communication, Community Involvement, Indigenous Heritage,

Management Planning, Tracks and Trails and Recreation Planning and Design.

More recently, Gae was employed with Parks Australia North, managing Indian Oceans Territories' National Parks and assisting with Kakadu and Uluru Kata Tjuta National Parks. Gae joined NRETA in January 2008 and has degrees in education (environmental studies), applied science (parks, wildlife and recreation) and a Master of Management.

Graham Phelps – Executive Director Parks



Graham has worked in conservation for 21 years, initially as a wildlife veterinarian and later as curator and manager of the Alice Springs Desert Park for nine years from 1996. Graham's work at the Alice Springs Desert Park linking environmental education and tourism with Indigenous employment and development led him to Groote Eylandt where he was the Northern Territory Government's

Regional Coordinator for two years. He commenced his current position in November 2006.

Dr Greg Leach – Executive Director Biodiversity Conservation



Greg has over 31 years experience in botanical survey and the taxonomy and ecology of tropical plants. Greg has worked in the Northern Territory for the last 22 years in the areas of plant systematics and wildlife conservation. Greg has a PhD in plant taxonomy. Within the Northern Territory Government Greg has been associated with the Alice Springs and Darwin Herbaria,

George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens and wildlife research. Prior to coming to the Northern Territory, Greg spent a number of years in Papua New Guinea, at the National Botanic Gardens in Lae and at the University of Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby. Greg's research interests and publications are in the areas of threatened flora, taxonomic revisionary work, freshwater plants, traditional plant knowledge and natural product chemistry of plants.

Lyn Allen – Executive Director Environment, Heritage and The Arts



Lyn has held this position since August 2004.

Lyn has wide experience working at the Territory, national and international levels. Before returning to the Northern Territory in 2004, Lyn was Director Environment and Resource Policy in the Queensland Government Department of the Premier and Cabinet. Lyn has also worked for a number of Territory organisations including the Menzies School

of Health Research, Katherine Regional Legal Aid Service, Greening Australia NT and the Environment Centre NT. Lyn has an Honours degree in Environmental Studies, a Masters of Business Administration, and is a Graduate Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

John Gilmour – Executive Director Land and Water

John came to this position in October 2003 following his work as an Executive Director within the Queensland Government's Environmental Protection Agency. John previously worked in the Northern Territory from 1977 to 1982, including management of the Conservation Commission's Environment Unit (the forerunner to the current Environment and Heritage Division).

John was the first Director of a combined environment division in the Queensland Government integrating air, water, noise, waste and environmental assessment. In this capacity John was the Queensland representative on the Standing Committee of the Australian Council for Environment for over 15 years. John has qualifications in Engineering, and post graduate qualifications in Business Administration and Environmental Engineering.

Clare Milikins – Executive Director Finance and Governance

Clare graduated from the University of Western Australia with a Bachelor of Commerce in 1988 and became a Certified Practising Accountant in 1994. Clare's extensive experience within the Northern Territory Government has seen her hold roles such as Director Financial Reporting and Budget Management with Treasury and Director Commercialisation Policy with

the Department of Transport and Works. Clare commenced with the Agency in 2005 as Chief Financial Officer. Clare was appointed Executive Director Finance and Governance in May 2006 and is responsible for Financial Services, Asset Management, Secretariat, Information Services and Records Management within the Agency.

Sandra Butcher – Director Human Resources and Legal Services

Sandra has wide corporate experience, particularly in managing change. She has worked in a number of Northern Territory Public Sector agencies, including the Department of Health and Community Services, the Northern Territory Employment and Training Authority, the Department of Corporate and Information Services, and the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and

Environment. Sandra joined the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts in October 2005. Sandra has business qualifications and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Anna Malgorzewicz – Director Museums and Arts Galleries of the Northern Territory

Anna has a background in migration history and cultural diversity and has worked in the museum and gallery sector for over 21 years. Anna has been a foundation team member of four important cultural initiatives, including as a curator at the Migration Museum and Museum Victoria, Director at the Canberra City Museum and Gallery (formerly Canberra Cultural Centre) and the Immigration

Museum, Melbourne. Anna is currently the Director of Museums and Arts Galleries of the Northern Territory.

Agency Culture

For governance arrangements to be effective an organisation must have a culture that supports strong governance.

In 2007-08 the Executive Leadership Group (ELG) ran Culture Sensing Workshops with employees across the Agency. These workshops were facilitated by the Chief Executive and two alternating members of the ELG in Alice Springs, Darwin and Katherine. The workshops were designed to provide information about the current culture and beliefs within the Agency. They were attended by a range of employees in age, experience and varied work units; with approximately 200 people taking part. It was clear from these workshops that several different cultures existed within the Agency, not all of which supported organisational success and good governance.

Leadership Development Programs

The Executive Leadership Group (ELG) recognised that leaders, through their behaviour and action, have a fundamental impact on culture. Therefore the Agency's culture is above all a reflection of the behaviours and actions of its leaders, particularly ELG members and the Chief Executive.

The Agency recognised that ultimately it is the acts or omissions of the people charged with leadership that determines whether governance objectives are achieved.

Leadership capability building continued in 2007-08 with the Agency's Senior Managers. ELG redeveloped the leadership program it undertook in 2006-07 to deliver similar understandings and tools to other leaders in the Agency.

This program was built into a three and a half day residential program delivered by the Chief Executive and ELG members. The program focused on introducing, and teaching through practice, the NRETA Team Work and Task Assignment models, as well as building some shared understanding of communication concepts, organisational culture and accountability and authority.

Three Leadership Development Programs were delivered in 2007-08 with 45 senior managers in the Agency attending. The programs also involved Syndicate tests designed to provide real value to the organisation.

Senior Managers' Forum

The Agency continued its Senior Manager Forum workshops in 2007-08, with more than 50 employees attending. The forum consisted of presentations by recent participants of the Agency's Leadership Development Program, where syndicate work groups were formed and tasks, focussing on providing solutions for identified Agency issues, were set. The presentations, reports and suggested solutions were then open for discussion to the senior managers in attendance. As this was the first Senior Managers' Forum where Jim Grant attended as the Agency's new Chief Executive, it also provided a forum for him to speak to staff about his planning and vision for the Agency.

Systems and Structures

The Executive Leadership Group (ELG) recognised the need for critical business systems to support and underpin the work on culture. The Culture Sensing Workshops, which commenced in 2006-07 and continued this year, again highlighted effective feedback as a major issue for staff which determined the need for a Performance Enhancement System (PES).

A draft PES was prepared and issued to ELG members in June 2008. Feedback on the PES was provided and it is planned that a trial rollout to selected staff will occur in 2008-09, before it is implemented across the Agency. A core component of the system is effective role descriptions that clearly articulate authorities and accountability as well as behavioural indicators.

Accountability and Authority

Clear accountabilities and authorities are crucial to effective governance. The Agency's Leadership Development Program recognised this with a Chief Executive delivery session focusing on building a shared understanding across the Agency of accountability and authenticity, what it is reasonable to hold people accountable for, and the types of accountabilities that exist. The Role Descriptions project, which will commence in 2008-09, will provide a basis for the clear articulation of accountability and identify the authorities necessary for people to operate effectively.

Business Planning

A planning day with the Minister responsible for the portfolios of Parks and Wildlife and Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage was held in November 2007-08. Agency staff who attended included the Executive Leadership Group and relevant directors from Output Groups. The planning day provided attendees with a vision of Government's priorities within the Agency, and associated core projects crucial to Government's service delivery outcomes.

Business Units

All business units within the Agency undertake regular business planning to ensure alignment with government priorities, initiatives and outcomes.

Ethical and Responsible Decision Making

Employees are expected to uphold the *Northern Territory Public Sector Principles and Code of Conduct*. Policies and procedures in place to promote ethical conduct include:

- Code of Conduct for Visiting Properties in the Northern Territory
- Code of Conduct and Supervisory Practices for Commission Employees Working with Children
- Code of Conduct for the Junior Ranger Program

The Agency's Code of Conduct training program was held in Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine and Alice Springs with a total of 139 employees participating in 2007-08. The program is designed to enhance employee's knowledge of ethical business practices and to provide practical strategies for dealing with situations that arise at work. It also draws on the *Northern Territory Public Sector Principles and Code of Conduct* as the source document which sets out the conduct expected of all Northern Territory Public Sector employees and the values they are obliged to uphold.

In addition the Agency has a Complaints Handling Policy which is supported by procedures, a flowchart and a sample complaints form. The framework provides a best practice model for handling complaints from Agency clients in recognition that effective complaint handling is a key component of good customer service.

Risk Management Practices

The establishment of effective corporate services capacity, particularly governance and financial structures, is fundamental to an organisation's ability to develop and institute effective risk management frameworks.

The Agency has a Finance and Governance business unit that has responsibility for identifying and instilling its governance risks, risk management and internal audit frameworks and processes to address these risks.

Procurement

The Agency's newly created Procurement Unit established an Agency Procurement Plan Framework in 2007-08. This Framework ensures the Agency's Executive Leadership Group has increased awareness and transparency of procurement activities. This Framework will ensure the Agency undertakes comprehensive financial year procurement planning; will assist with preparing communication on Future Tender Opportunities; and industry awareness and planning is provided for Northern Territory Government procurement.

The Northern Territory Government's Corporate Services Review Steering Committee commissioned Unisys to complete a review of the Northern Territory Government's procurement practices for each Agency in 2007-08. The report highlighted this Agency's efforts in 2007-08 to strengthen its procurement practices by stating the Agency's procurement systems as being:

A good example of contemporary procurement practices applied within the Northern Territory Government procedures and guidelines. A de-centralised approach with attempts to document and communicate the process to stakeholders.

The Agency is already taking steps towards process improvements be (sic) made by requesting improvements to current systems. This goes to show that other (Northern Territory Government) departments can also make improvements to their current processes, even within the current system limitations.

Audit Committee

The Agency's Audit Committee, established in 2006-07, met twice this financial year on 27 November 2007 and 20 March 2008.

The Committee is comprised of:

Independent Chairperson: Iain Summers (FCA, FCPA) and past Auditor-General for the Northern Territory (1995-2002).

Members: Diana Leeder – Agency's Executive Leadership Group
Lyn Allen – Agency's Executive Leadership Group
Catherine Wauchope – Assistant Under-Treasurer Northern Territory Government Treasury

Outcomes from the Agency's Audit Committee meetings for 2007-08 included:

- Adoption of the Terms of Reference and Audit Policy
- Trial of an Agency External Audit Log
- Implementation of an Agency Internal Audit Log
- Implementation of a Risk Register in accordance with Australian/New Zealand Standard 4360 for the 2008-09 financial year
- Commencement of a formal accounting and property manual for the Agency
- Establishment of formal procedures to ensure procurement Directions and Treasurer's Directions are adhered to.

Risk Assessment and Management

A series of risk assessment practices and reviews of Agency operations was conducted in 2007-08. Many of these were completed by employees with Risk Management Services from the Northern Territory Department of the Chief Minister.

Internal Audits and Review

- A review of Division 5 and 6 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* relating to permits and wildlife compliance to allow officers to issue infringement notices for breaches, was ongoing in 2007-08. This reviewed commenced in late 2006-07.
- An internal audit was conducted on the saltwater crocodile egg harvest processes as part of fulfilling the obligations of an approved wildlife trade under the *Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999*. The audit aimed to identify the risks to the industry from the current implementation of the egg harvest and to provide solutions to these. The findings of the audit are currently being implemented in conjunction with the Australian government and with input from key stakeholders.
- A Security Review of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory at Bullocky Point was completed in June 2008 by Kellogg Brown and Root Pty Ltd. The review was completed across the facility including all dimensions, building, electrical and mechanical, taking into account crime prevention through environmental design.

Audits

A series of external audits were undertaken by the Agency. These audits were conducted through a combination of external auditors and the Northern Territory Auditor-General.

Northern Territory Auditor-General

Six external audits were performed by the Auditor-General's Office in 2007-08.

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts Financial Statements 2006-07

The objective of the audit was to examine the financial statements of the Agency for the year ended 30 June 2007. An unqualified audit opinion was issued and no significant matters arising were identified.

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts Credit Card Audit

The audit was conducted to review the effectiveness of the Agency's credit card processes and internal control systems. The audit opinion was that the internal controls and processes in place were adequate.

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts Audit of Agency Internal Audit Function

The objective of the audit was to form an opinion on whether the internal audit function of the Agency was adequate.

The audit opinion was that although an audit committee existed, the Agency had not maintained an adequate internal audit function. This opinion reflects that at the time of the audit the Agency's Audit Committee had met three times and specific actions identified by the Committee had not been completed including an Agency wide risk assessment, improvement to the internal audit charter, implementation of a strategic audit plan and the development of an internal audit program. The Agency has commenced addressing these issues.

Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park Board Financial Statements 2006-07

The objective of the audit was to review the financial statements of the Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park Board for the year ended 30 June 2007. An unqualified audit opinion was issued and no significant matters arising were identified.

Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary and Marine Park Board Financial Statements 2006-07

The objective of the audit was to examine the financial statements of the Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary and Marine Park Board for the year ended 30 June 2007. An unqualified audit opinion was issued and no significant matters arising were identified.

Territory Wildlife Parks (Government Business Division) Financial Statements 2006-07

The objective of the audit was to examine the financial statements of Territory Wildlife Parks (Government Business Division) for the year ended 30 June 2007. An unqualified audit opinion was issued and no significant matters arising were identified.

Audits Conducted by Other External Auditors

External Funding Audited Acquittals

The Agency receives a significant amount of external funding in the form of grants from the Australian Government and other funding providers. Some of this funding requires an externally audited acquittal. The following audited acquittals were provided during the 2007-08 financial year.

National Heritage Trust – Single Holding Account

The audit was conducted to verify that funds received from the Australian Government, under the Bilateral Agreement, were credited to the Single Holding Account, that funds had been released from the Single Holding Account were consistent with Joint Steering Committee recommendations and the Statement of Revenue and Projects Approved and paid fairly represented the financial transactions for the year ended 30 June 2008.

A qualified audit opinion was issued in respect to the accounting treatment of June 2007 interest income that was not credited to the Single Holding account until July 2007. This represented a minor qualification and in all other respects the audit opinion was that the Single Holding Account fairly represented the transactions for the year and funds had been released consistent with the Joint Steering Committee recommendations.

Water Smart Australia

The audit was conducted to form an opinion on the Statement of Income and Expenditure of the project pursuant to the project funding agreement. An unqualified audit opinion was issued and no significant matters arising were identified.

Gulf Water Study – November 2007

The audit was conducted to form an opinion on the Statement of Income and Expenditure of the project pursuant to the project funding agreement.

An unqualified audit opinion was issued and no significant matters arising were identified.

Regional Arts Fund Program – February 2008

The audit was conducted to form an opinion on the Statement of Income and Expenditure of the project pursuant to the project funding agreement. An unqualified audit opinion was issued and no significant matters arising were identified.

Infrastructure Management

Infrastructure management is vital in ensuring the Agency's assets are developed and maintained to meet government's priorities and business needs. Infrastructure management covers all aspects of asset management including capital works, minor new works and repairs and maintenance activities.

The Agency's outcomes have a strong reliance on asset management, in providing protection of and public use or access to the Territory's natural and cultural assets. This ranges from Parks and Reserves visitor infrastructure such as walkways, car parks, shelters, park signage and water treatment areas to permanent collection houses in the Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory.

The Agency's Heritage Conservation Output Group continues to preserve the Territory's heritage assets through a \$10 million, heritage specific, repairs and maintenance program. The 10 year program commenced in 2004-05 and provides \$1million per annum, combined with the provision of advice and regulation, to conserve heritage listed infrastructure for future use.

Such activities in 2007-08 included carrying out conservation and repairs to buildings at:

- Arltunga Historical Reserve;
- Araluen Homestead;
- Alice Springs Telegraph Station;
- Old Alice Springs Courthouse;
- Barrow Creek Telegraph Station;
- Naval Victualling Yard Darwin;
- Stella Maris Hostel Darwin;
- Fannie Bay Gaol Darwin;
- Old QANTAS Hangar Darwin;
- Hunter House Katherine;

- Katherine NAR Bridge, and
- Tennant Creek Telegraph Station.

Challenges in 2007-08

The remote locality of the Agency's infrastructure and assets continues to pose significant challenges for infrastructure management. Other factors, including climate extremes, natural disasters and the need to respond to climate change also impact directly on the Agency's infrastructure and activities.

Work on the Solar Cities funding bid for the replacement of the Alice Springs Cultural Centre's air-conditioning system with a solar-powered alternative has been one of the Agency's responses to these challenges in 2007-08.

Additional funding was secured for the replacement of the Agency's workshop and storage shed in Tennant Creek after it was destroyed by fire in October 2007.

Reprioritising works within existing programs enabled funding to meet the cost of damage to Top End infrastructure caused by Tropical Cyclone Helen in January 2008 and to improve security at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory at Bullocky Point.

Work was completed on several major infrastructure projects during 2007-08 including:

- Upgrade of the first and second gorge crossovers at Nitmiluk National Park, near Katherine,
- Development of park infrastructure at Channel Point, west of Katherine, which included a boat launching facility, camping ground, roads, parking, interpretive displays, ranger station, accommodation and storage; and
- Upgrade and expansion of visitor facilities in the West MacDonnell National Park, near Alice Springs, which included additional shade shelters, presentation areas and ablution facilities.

Priorities in 2008-09

The Agency will work on the development of a 10 year infrastructure plan, in association with the Northern Territory Government's Department of Planning and Infrastructure, which will provide the strategy for achieving the Agency's long-term objectives.

Infrastructure priorities for 2008-09 include:

- Finalise the upgrade of facilities along the Larapinta Trail in the West MacDonnell National Park, near Alice Springs;
- Complete the construction of a new toilet block at the Nitmiluk National Park, near Katherine;
- Complete Stage 2 of the Leanyer Recreation Park development, at Darwin;
- Develop the West MacDonnell National Park, Red Centre Way Interpretive Centre, near Alice Springs;
- Undertake the Stage 1 upgrade of the Litchfield National Park visitor's facilities, south of Darwin;
- Replace the air-conditioning system at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory at Darwin; and
- Reconstruct the boardwalk and wetlands lookout at the Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve, south of Darwin.

Greener Government

The Agency has continued to make significant efforts in reducing its carbon emissions and energy usage in 2007-08. In previous years the Agency detailed various initiatives and activities designed to reduce and improve resource consumption developing better environmental working practices to reduce its carbon emissions. Whilst this has been effective in promoting good environmental practices it has been difficult to measure any successes.

Eco-footprint Audit

To provide some independence and transparency to the Agency's commitment to reducing its eco-footprint a consultant was engaged to conduct an environmental audit to:

- Review operations to determine (baseline) the environmental performance and eco-footprint
- Provide an estimate of the Agency's carbon footprint
- Identify opportunities for improvement in environmental management and offset carbon emissions
- Assist in identifying key performance indicators and milestones to report against, to measure success
- Develop and provide a training and awareness package to inform and engage staff
- Provide access to the eco-footprint reporting tool and assist to measure and report on progress to reducing emissions and achieving key performance targets

This audit of the Agency's eco-footprint included such data gathering methods as:

- Obtaining statistical data such as the size and types of our vehicle fleet, kilometres travelled and fuel usage, travel means and distances i.e. flights and air miles, power consumption and cost, building sizes and type and amount of employees

- Analysis of current organisational practices through on-site surveys looking at lighting levels, use and types of office machinery, use of domestic areas and equipment, office practices and current levels of reuse and recycling, practical solutions to reducing power and resource consumption were some of the areas considered
- Personal awareness through interviews with employees to gauge their personal views, practices and levels of awareness in how to reduce their personal carbon footprint and in the workplace also

While the results and recommendations of the audit have not been completed for the 2007-08 year, the Agency continues to undertake a range of activities to reduce the environmental impact of its operations.

Green Office Initiatives

In a continuing effort to reduce its carbon footprint the Agency commenced a major green office initiative to explore alternative ways of operating. This commenced with the establishment of a Green Initiatives Team and the development of a list of initiatives which vary from major infrastructure changes to simple behavioural changes.

This team was responsible for engaging the consultant to provide the environmental audit and coordinate the list of initiatives, to provide a structured approach for measurement and to integrate energy efficiency and carbon offsets into Agency policy. Key initiatives identified for approval or have already been approved for implementation includes:

- Defaulting all Agency computers to double sided and black and white printing
- Switching to 100 per cent recycled paper (approximately 85 per cent of the Agency already uses 100 per cent recycled paper)
- Activating the Energy Star mode on computer systems
- Paper recycling bins installed in all work areas with staff encouraged to use them

- Additional recycling bins in kitchens for plastics and other recyclable items
- Toner and ink cartridge recycling bins throughout the Agency
- Installation of occupancy sensors in suitable areas and introducing timers on lights through infrastructure projects
- A reduction in printing and copying, utilising intra/internet to publish large documents
- Changing behaviours to switch off lights, computers and other electrical equipment when not in use

Operational Policy Changes

In considering the environmental impact of the Agency's operations two substantial policy changes were made in the areas of procurement and its vehicle fleet:

Procurement

To facilitate a greener approach to procurement, the Agency's Executive Leadership Group decided to incorporate Environmental Impact as a mandatory assessment criterion for the procurement of goods and services in excess of \$50,001. Environmental Impact as a criterion will be given a minimum weighting of five per cent in the assessment of such procurement.

Vehicle Fleet

A reduction in vehicle and engine sizes has been mandated across throughout the Agency by the Executive Leadership Group through a Fleet Greenhouse Policy. Applications for renewals/purchase of new vehicles will be stringently assessed as to need and usage versus type, size and engine capacity, with most requiring to be petrol-electric hybrid or 4-cylinder vehicles of any type.

Vehicles will have a minimum Green Vehicle Guide greenhouse rating of 5.5 (as determined by the Australian Government). The Agency is looking to reduce its use of vehicles with six and eight cylinders, to not only reduce its carbon dioxide emissions, but fuel usage as well.

This policy is not only being used for Northern Territory Government plated vehicles but for privately plated vehicles as used by executive employees. This policy, implemented in May 2008, has already had a significant effect on the Agency's fleet period with an:

- Increase of Hybrid vehicles by one
- Decrease of six cylinder vehicles by seven
- Decrease of four wheel drive vehicles by four
- Decrease of total vehicle holdings by two

Reducing Energy Usage

The Agency remains committed to reducing its energy usage in accordance with the Northern Territory Government's Energy Smart Buildings Policy and has achieved some significant results during 2007-08 with energy reductions in major building infrastructure:

- Goyder Building, Palmerston – 10.39 per cent
- Strehlow Research Centre, Alice Springs – 11.41 per cent
- Tom Hare Building and Nursery, Alice Springs – 5.16 per cent
- Darwin Plaza – 6.95 per cent
- Bushfires NT, Winnellie – 11.32 per cent
- Randazzo Building, Katherine – 21.95 per cent

These reductions have been achieved through various initiatives under this program and other Green Office initiatives during this period and include:

- Reducing 36 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per year, by increasing the air-conditioning temperature by one degree Celsius at the Goyder Building, Palmerston

- Commencement of implementation of energy efficient hot water systems
 - Repairing and installing insulation initiatives such as door and window seals and cladding at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.
 - Upgraded lighting throughout Galleries at Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
 - Continued de-lamping programs throughout the Agency
 - Cleaning of lighting throughout Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory and Araluen Arts Centre.
 - Installation of lighting occupancy sensors in suitable areas and introducing timers on lights through infrastructure upgrades
 - Decrease in air conditioning use through increases to the thermostatic temperature
 - Encouraging employees to turn off electrical items and lights if not in use
 - Agency participation in the global event Earth Hour on 27 March 2008, encouraging staff to switch off all electrical equipment before leaving work prior to the event. Representatives were appointed in all Agency buildings to ensure that all non-essential lighting was switched off across its infrastructure in the Northern Territory.
- A project team will be implemented to educate employees on how behavioural change can reduce its eco-footprint. Ongoing audits of the Agency's eco-footprint will continue to measure this behavioural change and reduction in carbon emissions and energy usage.
 - In continued support of the Government's [Energy Smart Buildings Policy](#) this Agency will undertake new projects during 2008-09 to reduce its energy consumption that include:
 - Replacing the air conditioning system at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. This is anticipated to have a major impact on the Agency energy use
 - Continued improvements to lighting systems across the whole Agency, including timers on after hours lighting and other appropriate electrical equipment
 - Continue to monitor and improve air conditioning use
 - In addition to the vehicle fleet policy change during 2007-08, the Agency will be conducting a complete review of its fleet holdings during 2008-09 with a view to rationalising the Agency's fleet where possible. This rationalisation will lead to a reduction in green house gas emissions from the Northern Territory Government's passenger fleet and contribute to the Agency's own carbon footprint reduction.

Green Priorities for 2008-09

- The Agency will continue to reduce its carbon footprint through the implementation and fostering of new initiatives, as determined by the consultant's report on the Agency's eco-footprint. This audit will set the baseline from which to launch reportable improvements. Through the initiation of a carbon reporting tool, the Agency will be able to measure and demonstrate effective working practices which also aid in reducing its carbon footprint.

Governing Legislation

The Agency is responsible for administering 42 pieces of legislation, with 23 Acts and 19 pieces of subordinate legislation, on behalf of the Ministers for Arts and Museums, Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage and Parks and Wildlife. A complete list of legislation administered by the Agency and amendments to the Acts and Regulations in 2007-08 is located in the Appendix on page 209.

This legislation provides an overriding direction for many functions that the Agency performs and is the foundation to a number of its Outputs.

The Agency has developed a program of review aimed at ensuring its legislation remains relevant to its functions and incorporates best practice in the areas it administers. The Agency also has a statutory responsibility for certain authorities and bodies as listed in the [Appendix on page 202](#).

Legal Proceedings

The Agency had two outstanding legal proceedings of alleged breaches of Acts as at 30 June 2007 from the period 2006-07. Both those proceedings were finalised in the 2007-08 period, one of which resulted in a non-conviction and a \$1 500 good behaviour bond. The other outstanding proceeding was an appeal lodged by the Agency which was successful and resulted in an increase of the initial fine.

The Agency commenced nil legal proceedings for the period 2007-08.

Table 1: Legal proceedings ongoing from 2006-07

| Act | Section of Act for Alleged Breach | Charge | Result | Total Penalty | Status as at 30 June 08 |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|---------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act</i> | Section 66 (2) and Section 67B(b) | Possess Protected Wildlife and Possess prohibited entrant | No Conviction recorded – Good Behaviour Bond for 12 months | \$1,500 | n/a |
| <i>Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act</i> | Section 66(3) | Import / Export protected wildlife | Appeal allowed – fine increased from \$500 to \$2000. | \$2,000 | n/a |

Table 2: New legal proceedings in 2007-08

| Act | Section of Act for Alleged Breach | Charge | Result | Total Penalty | Status as at 30 June 08 |
|-----|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |

Access to Information

Under section 11 of the *Information Act* the Agency is required to annually prepare a report detailing:

- Its structure and functions
- The kinds of government information it usually holds
- Its procedures for providing access under Part 3 (Access and Correction Rights) to government information it holds
- Its procedures for correcting under Part 3 personal information it holds.

Accessing Information

The Agency has policies and procedures to enable people to access information and to request corrections to personal information. The policies and procedures are available at <http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/foi/>

Applications must be in writing and identify the name of the applicant; provide sufficient details to identify the information sought or the information to be corrected; specify an address to which correspondence regarding the application may be sent and where applicable, include the application fee of \$30.

Applications can be lodged via post, facsimile or email.

Manager HR and Legal Services
PO Box 496, Palmerston NT 0831
08 8999 4723 (fax)
foi.nreta@nt.gov.au

Applications from remote centres may be lodged at local police stations.

Request for Access to Information in 2007-08

In 2007-08, the Agency responded to one new formal information request which is yet to be completed within the statutory timeframe as it is still in progress. This information request relates to government information and is still ongoing as at 30 June 2008.

| Information Act Requests | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---------|---------|
| Applications carried over from previous year | 1 | 0 |
| Applications to access personal information | 0 | 0 |
| Applications to access government information | 2 | 1 |
| Requests withdrawn | 1 | 0 |
| Responses completed within 30 day period | 2 | 0 |
| Responses completed exceeding 30 day period | 0 | 0 |
| Applications on hand as at 30 June | 0 | 1 |

Types of Government Information Held by the Agency

The Agency's Information Management Strategy centres on ensuring compliance with Part 9 of the *Information Act*. Activities that take place within the Strategic Records Unit are in line with advice and standards provided by the Northern Territory Archives Service under Part 9 of the *Act*. The Agency is developing processes and procedures to ensure types of records are captured accurately. A comprehensive list of the Agency's publications is available on the Internet.

Ombudsmen Inquiries

The Northern Territory Ombudsman conducted two inquiries with the Agency during 2007-08:

- The Ombudsmen contacted the Agency on 28 September 2007 in relation to claims by a resident of Batchelor who believed his property was subjected to arson by the Bushfires Council. The Agency responded to the Ombudsman's inquiry on 5 October 2007 and the matter was closed.
- The Ombudsman contacted the Agency on 12 May 2008 in relation to the outcome of the provision of grants by the Key Arts Organisations assessment panel. The Agency responded to the Ombudsman's inquiry on 26 June 2008. As at 30 June 2008 the Ombudsman's inquiry was ongoing.

Corporate Communication

Dissemination of information across all levels is paramount for effective corporate governance. The Agency has developed several mechanisms for ensuring effective internal and external communication.

Internet and Intranet

The Agency maintains an employee only Intranet resource and publicly accessible Internet site, with each containing over 1000 pages of information. The Internet site provides an on-line presence for the Agency to present its information and services to an ever expanding audience. The Agency received 104 emails through Internet feedback regarding its activities and requests for information.

The Intranet site for Agency employees provides access to Executive Leadership Group meeting minutes, governance protocols, staff training opportunities, employment information and news. Both sites are regularly reviewed for content accuracy and technological improvements.

Future Priorities

Enable an online gallery and virtual tour of the 25th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award, which is hosted annually by the Agency.

Enable a web application that will allow users to search for activities within the Parks area of the Internet, specific to activities and facilities of regions in the Northern Territory.

Centralise Agency policies and procedures on the staff only Intranet.

Chief Executive's Newsletter

A regular newsletter penned by the Chief Executive is posted on the Intranet. This newsletter keeps employees informed of corporate initiatives and developments, key achievements by employees within the Agency, across Agency projects and community based interaction.

Friday Round Up

The Communications and Media Business Unit provides a weekly summation of the Agency's activities as covered by local, national and international media across print, radio, television and web and is posted on the Intranet.

Media Release Distribution

The Communications and Media Business Unit issued 181 media releases to local, national and international media in relation to the Agency's activities. This figure incorporates both proactive and reactive releases to media inquiries, and does not include general requests for interviews by media with Agency staff. Media training for 16 staff was also coordinated by the Communications and Media Unit.

| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Media Releases Issued | 169 | 216 | 181 |

Secretariat

The Secretariat Business Unit provides a coordination service between the two Ministers who share the Agency's Ministerial portfolios of Arts and Museums, Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage and Parks and Wildlife, to the Chief Executive, as well as Cabinet, on all operational areas of the Agency. It also provides administrative support with the coordination of statutory appointments for the Agency.

| Secretariat Services | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|
| Ministerials | 1296 | 1373 | 1266 |
| Cabinet Comments - other government agencies | 58 | 48 | 78 |
| Cabinet Submissions for NRETA | 78 | 64 | 40 |
| Legislative Assembly Briefings | 257 | 298 | 311 |
| Estimates Committee Briefings | 101 | 140 | 196 |
| Executive Council Submissions | 5 | 10 | 2 |
| Community Cabinet Meeting Briefings | 57 | 72 | 59 |
| Business Round-Table Meeting Briefings | 23 | 10 | 8 |

Strategic Partnerships

Cooperative Partnerships

Achieving the Agency's vision requires effective working relationships with other organisations and individuals. We have collaborated and created partnerships with:

- Other Northern Territory Government agencies to achieve whole of government targets.
- Other governments to achieve outcomes of mutual benefit, reduce duplication and optimise returns on investment.
- Landowners and resource managers to promote sustainability of use and optimise benefits from use.
- Indigenous groups to jointly manage lands and resources in which Indigenous people have a special interest.
- Research providers to provide new information and analysis on important questions.
- The arts and related sectors to create new understandings and expressions of Territory identity.
- Community groups and members of the general public, including young people, to broaden the range of people who understand and contribute to achieving the Agency's goals.

Northern Territory Government agencies

1. Worked with the Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Mines to:
 - Develop and implement collaborative research and management projects to examine options for maintaining biodiversity on pastoral lands
 - Continue the surveillance of potential incursions of human and domestic animal diseases in feral vertebrates

- Establish a working group to develop an agreed approach to marine conservation planning projects, including the Northern Territory Marine Protected Areas Strategy and the Northern Territory Marine Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
 - Ensure preparedness for any emergency animal disease incursion into the Territory (also in partnership with Australian and state government departments)
 - Develop a common system and single contact for reporting and responding to incidents involving marine wildlife (also involved collaboration with Police, Fire and Emergency Services)
 - Renew and amend the Memorandum of Understanding to improve facilitation of mining and aquaculture assessments.
 - Undertake assessments of Neutral Junction (north of Alice Springs) and Phillip Creek (Alice Springs) Station. This partnership, also involved the Northern Territory Cattleman's Association and pastoralists, and involved conducting land and water assessment to improve pastoralists' productivity and drought mitigation, while improving environmental management of properties and gathering further information.
2. In partnership with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure:
 - Signed a Memorandum of Understanding which sets the framework for the Department of Planning and Infrastructure to undertake preliminary environmental investigations of projects, and sets triggers for the referral of those projects to the Agency for determination under the *Environmental Assessment Act*
 - Established a project, also involving Darwin Port Corporation, to develop a dredging monitoring program for Darwin Harbour.

3. Worked with the Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development to:
 - Develop the business plan for the proposed amphitheatre at the Alice Springs Desert Park (this also involved Tourism NT)
 - Develop a Northern Territory Indigenous Employment Strategy for contemporary music.
4. Worked with the Department of Employment, Education and Training to:
 - Support Connecting through Schools, a film festival for Territory youth
 - Develop and deliver the Exit Art exhibition, which showcases the talent of senior visual art, craft and design students at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
 - Host their Environmental Education for Sustainability Project Officer at the Alice Springs Desert Park to enable the sharing of resources and intellectual capacity.
5. Drafted a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Power and Water Corporation which sets the framework for Power and Water to undertake preliminary environmental investigations and undertake a risk assessment approach to determine the potential impacts of works proposals. The technical aspects of the MoU and the Risk Assessment are being trialled and the document will be signed in 2008-09.
6. Progressed the Indigenous Arts Strategy's *Building Strong Arts Business* as a whole of Northern Territory Government approach with support from Tourism NT, and the Departments of the Chief Minister, Employment, Education and Training, Local Government, Housing and Sport, Planning and Infrastructure, and Business, Economic and Regional Development.
7. Worked with the Department of the Chief Minister on the development of the Red Centre Way Strategy and hosted a number of their visiting VIP's at the Alice Springs Desert Park.

Other governments (state, federal, international)

1. In partnership with the Australian Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts:
 - Enhanced research and management in Kakadu National Park, including for the survey of dolphins and monitoring of vertebrate fauna
 - Collaborated on a Memorandum Of Understanding (also with Northern Territory Fisheries) on Cooperative Marine Planning in the Waters Adjacent to the Northern Territory
 - Commenced an environmental assessment of Ichthys Gas Field Development Project
 - Signed a Memorandum of Understanding which assists the Agency in implementing the National Pollutant Inventory (NPI).
2. Worked with the Bureau of Meteorology to:
 - Provide hydrographic, weather and flood forecasting information under the *Water Act*
 - Develop the Water Quality Statistical Analysis and Reporting (WQSAR) tool to assist in the upload of Northern Territory water quality data into a national database (this partnership also included the Bureau of Rural Sciences)
3. Worked with the Australian Government National Water Commission to deliver the following Water Smart Australia projects:
 - Gulf Water Study – Effective management of healthy groundwater and rivers
 - Sustainable Development and Management of Water Resources in Northern Australia - Develop catchment-specific adaptive management frameworks to protect economic, environmental and other community values
 - Strategic Assessment and Management of Priority/Stressed Groundwater Catchments - Develop water allocation plans and water management strategies for three priority groundwater management units within the Northern Territory

4. Worked with the Australian, South Australian, Western Australian and Queensland governments to develop a national management framework for feral camels.
 5. Contributed to the development of the Arafura-Timor Seas Ecosystem Action (ATSEA) Plan. This is an international, collaborative marine research program for the Arafura and Timor Seas, recently funded under the United Nations Global Environment Fund.
 6. Worked with the Australian Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Queensland, Western Australian governments and the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines to upgrade emergency response programs to ensure preparedness for any incursion of exotic diseases into Australia.
 7. Partnered with the Australia Council for the Arts to undertake an independent review of theatre and performance in the Northern Territory.
 8. Continued a partnership with the Australian Film Television and Radio School to contribute to the development of screen industry training in the Territory.
 9. Entered into a partnership with Australian, Western Australian and Queensland governments to scope the impact of climate change on remote Indigenous communities.
 10. Worked with AusAID and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to deliver the Australian Fellowship Awards program. This was an inaugural program which focused on sustainable professional development opportunities for AusAID target nations. The Agency hosted three staff members from the National Directorate of Timor-Leste, resulting in skill development, strong museum to museum working relationships and the instigation of an international exhibition at MAGNT, jointly presented by the Directoria National da Cultura (DNC) and the national Collection of Timor-Leste.
 11. Worked with the Eastern Indonesian Provincial Government through the Nusa Tenggara Timur Museum Partnership Program. This focused on the development of collections management and conservation skills for Indonesian regional museums staff. It positions the Agency's Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory as a leading cultural institution in the region, with five regional museums from eastern Indonesia attended a three week training program delivered by the MAGNT Curator and Conservator.
 12. Developed outcomes relating to the Healthy Country Healthy People Schedule to the Northern Territory – Australian Government Bilateral Agreement on Indigenous Affairs by co-chairing the Steering Committee and the Operational Group of the Schedule and driving the implementation of the Schedule. The Schedule recognises and supports the principle that Indigenous land and sea management is a means to closing the gap of Indigenous disadvantage.
 13. Worked with the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service on formulating a national protocol for detection, interception and identification of marine pests.
 14. Progressed National Water Initiatives through membership on the Environment Protection and Heritage Council's Joint Steering Committee on Water Sensitive Cities.
- ### Landowners and Resource Managers
1. Developed and implemented a long term partnership with Heytesbury Beef to examine options for maintaining biodiversity on pastoral lands.
 2. Worked with Rio Tinto Alcan Gove on the assessment of vegetation rehabilitation for biodiversity.
 3. Worked collaboratively with non-government conservation organisations, such as Bush Heritage and Australian Wildlife Conservancy, to evaluate lands for potential purchase for conservation purposes.

4. Collaborated with the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association to develop mechanisms for dingo conservation and wild dog control.
5. Established a Memorandum of Understanding with Australian Pipeline Trust, the owners and builders of the Bonaparte Gas Pipeline, to ensure that no disturbance to archaeological sites occurs during construction of the pipeline.
6. Worked with Wagaman Rangers and the Wagamati Landcare group in water quality monitoring activities on the Daly River.
7. Partnered with the Central Land Management Association to:
 - Complete a rapid land and water assessment of 13 properties in Central Australia, providing a range of satellite land resource maps and a series of water resource maps and datasets
 - Assist them with their Ecosystem Understanding Project through the provision of Agency information and advice. The project assists participating landholders in central Australia develop locally appropriate techniques to manage the impacts of declining landscape productivity, and allows the Department to work with these land managers.
8. Worked with a variety of committees including the:
 - Katherine Regional Weed Advisory Committee on weed management and drafting weed management plans in consultation with the community
 - Alice Springs, Ti Tree, Katherine and Darwin Water Advisory Committees, who advise government on the management of water resources in the region
 - Daly River Management Advisory Committee with regard to land clearing sub-division and water resources in the Daly Basin.
9. Supported community wildlife rescue and care groups in providing a service for injured and orphaned wildlife in Alice Springs, Katherine and the Darwin and Palmerston areas by providing funding, assisting with the release of wildlife and attending meetings.

Indigenous Groups

1. Developed and enhanced collaboration with many Indigenous ranger groups through:
 - Management of threatened species, biodiversity surveys, and preparation of planning documents for Indigenous Protected Areas
 - Research relationships with Dhimurru, Anindilyakwa, Lianhawirriyarra, Marthakal, Tiwi Islands, and Laynhapuy Sea Ranger Groups, as part of the Northern Territory Marine Debris Monitoring Program, and sea turtle research projects in the Tiwi Islands, Borroloola and Groote Eylandt
 - Development of the Yolgnu Sea Country Plan, which identifies ongoing marine conservation and research directions and priorities, and existing or proposed research collaborations and partnerships with Dhimurru Land Corporation
 - Development and implementation of a feral cat program on the Sir Edward Pellew Islands with the Mabunji Rangers (also in partnership with the World Wildlife Fund)
 - Provision of a senior ranger to work with Laynhapuy's Yirralka Rangers. This Partnership Agreement with the Laynhapuy Homelands Association was funded through the Indigenous Ranger Group Development Program.
2. Worked with the Northern and Central Land Councils to:
 - Better manage feral animals on Indigenous land in Katherine (also in partnership with the Indigenous Land Corporation)
 - Train Indigenous ranger groups and manage threats to biodiversity on Aboriginal land
 - Provide two rangeland monitoring training courses and establish rangeland monitoring sites on Aboriginal pastoral properties through the Indigenous Pastoral Program (IPP) (also in conjunction with the Aboriginal Land Trust)

- Develop fire management projects in the northern region of the Territory which host a range of grant projects and support the West Arnhem Fire Management Agreement
 - Develop fire management for property protection and biodiversity conservation in the southern half of the Territory, and sought joint external funding with the Central Land Council for fire management training and capacity building
 - Develop and implement joint management programs on Northern Territory Parks and Reserves, and foster strong partnerships with Aboriginal Traditional Owners. Broader Indigenous employment and enterprise development goals are being developed through these partnerships
 - Ensure adequate Indigenous facilitation/consultation and advice for marine conservation planning projects, including the Northern Territory Marine Protected Areas Strategy and the Marine Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
 - Establish an Agreement for the Strehlow Research Centre to store secret sacred men's ceremonial objects on their behalf in order to ensure they receive appropriate curatorial care.
3. Developed in partnership with Desert Inc, the Association of Central Australian Aboriginal Art and Craft Centres, an Arts Centre Operations Manual.
 4. Worked closely with the Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association to create Yarning Up, an initiative that provided 10 Indigenous Territorians from remote communities with documentary making skills, and resulted in four completed documentaries for broadcast on national television.
 5. Undertook land and water assessments of potential horticulture development areas on Aboriginal Land Trust properties to facilitate the sustainable development of new commercial farms and Aboriginal community training farms. Assessments were undertaken in collaboration with landholders, Traditional Owners, the Central Land Council, Centrefarm Limited, and government agencies.
 6. Worked with the Limilngan-Wulna Traditional Owners of Ludawei at Window on the Wetlands, Central Arrernte Apmere-atyeye at the Alice Springs Desert Park and the Kungarakana / Warrai custodians at the Territory Wildlife Park for advice, guidance and involvement in developments.
 7. Commenced work with Lhere Artepe to develop an Indigenous Land Use Agreement for the greater site at Alice Springs Desert Park.
 8. Supported the participation of Arrernte custodians in the Management of the Alice Springs Cultural Precinct Sacred Sites and Indigenous programs.
 9. Provided to the Nyinkka Nyunyu Cultural Centre in Tennant Creek curatorial advice and monitoring of significant material culture objects on loan from the South Australian Museum.
 10. Worked with the North Australian Aboriginal and Islander Land and Sea Management Alliance to develop new fire management greenhouse gas abatement projects across northern Australia.
 11. Maintained and enhanced support for Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation through the outplacement of a senior Parks and Wildlife Ranger to work directly with the Dhimurru Rangers, and provision of a grant to provide project management services for the construction of Dhimurru's new offices.

12. Developed the Indigenous Land and Sea Management – Education, Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods Schedule to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Northern Territory Government and Batchelor Institute for Indigenous Tertiary Education. The schedule will work with Indigenous land and sea management groups and Northern Territory Government agencies to provide input into the education, training, research and workforce development of the Indigenous Land and Sea Management Sector.
13. Partnered with Indigenous organisations such as the Ingkerreke and Tjwanpa Outstation Resource Centres for the Flexible Employment Program. These partnerships promote opportunities for Parks works and service contracts to be taken up by Aboriginal organisations including Indigenous community ranger groups.

Research Providers

1. Maintained strong relationships with Charles Darwin University through:
 - Shared appointments (Adjunct positions), supervision of postgraduate students, and joint responsibilities for organising symposia
 - Continued collaboration on joint projects such as the assessment of water requirements of rainforests, and propagation of threatened *Boronia* species
 - Work on the Charles Darwin University – Northern Territory Government Partnership (Sustainable Marine Resources Schedule), setting strategic and collaborative directions, actions for marine conservation, marine resource use and training in the Northern Territory
 - Research proposals to improve understanding of the impacts of feral vertebrates and invertebrates
2. Worked with the CSIRO in relation to:
 - Engagement with University science researchers to undertake bench top studies on nutrient sediment water column interactions. This work focuses on the rate at which nutrients are absorbed onto sediment suspended in the water column and is an important parameter for the water quality model for Darwin Harbour.
 - Engagement with researchers and other partners to improve understanding of greenhouse gas emissions from land use change in tropical savannas
 - The Creative Industries Schedule, a partnership aimed at growing the creative industries sector in the Northern Territory
 - The annual History Colloquium, a partnership which also involves the Australian National University
 - Collaborative research into tropical grasses and the impact of buffel grass on biodiversity in Central Australia
 - Joint development of a participatory monitoring and evaluation process for jointly managed Parks and Reserves. Robust processes are required under the terms of the new joint management arrangements, and a participatory approach engages all partners in determining the goals and indicators for the evaluation and build on internationally developed methodologies.

3. Worked with the Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre to:
 - Develop a national management framework for feral camels
 - Assist in the development of their bush tomato plantation by providing substantial technical and physical assistance.
4. Collaborated with the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) in the identification of site and operational management arrangements for the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) proposed Integrated Marine Observing Systems (IMOS) platform for Darwin Harbour.
5. Engaged Water Research Laboratories at the University of New South Wales to assist with the development of a water quality model for Darwin Harbour.
6. Engaged Frogwatch to research the development of an amphibian index to complement the national indices for wetland condition assessment.
7. Partnered with the Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge to:
 - Develop a water quality model for lower Daly River
 - Develop a suspended and bed load transport model for the Daly River
 - Examine the productivity and nutrient budget of the water column and mudflats of Darwin Harbour, with particular focus on comparisons between impacted systems receiving point source discharge and un-impacted sites in the estuary. Environmental flows and cultural values were also examined in the Howard, Katherine and Daly Rivers. This work included collaborative efforts in water quality and fish survey work.
8. Continued to participate in the Kew Gardens (England) Millennium Seed Bank Project at the Alice Springs Desert Park for long term seed conservation.

9. Worked with Tropical Savannas CRC to develop remotely sensed fire management technology to assist in improved understanding of introduced grasses and their impact upon fire behaviour, and to develop the scientific underpinning for future greenhouse gas offset projects.

Arts and Related Sectors

1. Funded the Darwin Festival to undertake an Economic Impact study with Charles Darwin University and Northern Territory Treasury to determine the economic benefit of the arts event to the Territory economy.
2. Provided \$30 000 for the development and delivery of Indigenous dance workshops across the Northern Territory in partnership with Ausdance NT and Australia Council for the Arts.
3. Supported the inclusion of the Northern Territory arts sector in staging the 2008 Regional Arts Australia national conference 'art at the heart' through a local engagement committee and artistic team and collaborated with the Alice Springs Town Council.
4. Brokered a successful tri-party agreement for the Agency's Strehlow Research Centre with Racing Pulse Productions and the Western Arrernte male owners of the tjilpa itata (western quoll) song for use of cultural verses in the opera "Ink kata" staged at the Adelaide Festival of the Arts. Ink kata is the name given to Carl Strehlow by the Western Arrernte people and the opera tells the story of the relationships between Strehlow and the community.
5. Continued to work in partnership with the Telstra Corporation Limited in the development and delivery of the annual Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award.
6. Worked in partnership with Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in order to present an exhibition at the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT celebrating their centenary.

Community Engagement

The Agency engaged with members of the community in a number of ways during 2007-08. This included giving individuals and organisations opportunities to be informed and to take part in the decision making process.

The following information details the community engagement activities undertaken by each Output Group.

Output Group: Parks and Reserves

- Consulted with Traditional Owners in the development of various draft Joint Management Plans for Territory Parks and Reserves including West MacDonnell National Park, Corroboree Rock Conservation Reserve, Trepkina Gorge Nature Park, N'Dhala Gorge Conservation Reserve, Watarkka National Park, Flora River Nature Park, Fogg Dam Nature Park, Black Jungle / Lambells Lagoon Conservation Reserve, Harrison Dam Conservation Reserve, Melacca Swamp Conservation Area.
- Engaged children in the Junior Ranger program with more than 300 school aged children registered for the program in Darwin and Alice Springs. Activities included learning about reptiles (crocodile management and marine turtle release), developing bush skills (damper cooking, how to use a GPS, map reading and navigation) small mammal fauna surveys, learning about local Aboriginal bush tucker and medicines and nocturnal walks.
- Engaged 2000 school students, through the Community Education Schools Program, in classroom and field-based environmental and wildlife education activities.
- Invited public comment for the Draft Joint Management Plan for the Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve, developed in consultation with the Traditional Owners.
- Conducted a workshop in Alice Springs with tourism industry stakeholders to ensure the industry's interests were reflected in the draft West MacDonnell National Park Joint Management Plan.

- Conducted ranger-guided interpretive activities as part of the Territory Parks Alive program and increased the number of visitors involved in the program by 12 per cent from 2006-07, exceeding 13 000 contacts for the first time. The Territory Parks Alive program is a free program which offers visitors the chance to find out more about flora, fauna, culture, heritage and park management.
- Engaged with elders in the Litchfield National Park, Adelaide and Finnis River areas to check Warray names for 122 plants and 232 animals and record their uses. Much of this cultural knowledge was drawn from data recorded in the 1980s in conjunction with the Warray elders using departmental scientific cultural institutions such as the Herbarium, the Territory Wildlife Park and the Museum collections.
- Completed a cross-cultural biological knowledge project in Gregory National Park, the most linguistically and biologically comprehensive community engagement project undertaken with Aboriginal elders on a National Park in Australia. Language names, scientific names and common English names were prepared for plants and animals in the Park. The publication of this material will allow for improved natural resource management options for the Agency, land councils and ranger groups by providing a comprehensive, accurate guide to the plants and animals in the area.
- Completed Traditional Aboriginal biological knowledge collection, collation and accuracy checking with the Marri Ngarr, Magati Ke and Murrinh-patha elders from the Wadeye (Port Keats) area. This project was undertaken with the Merrepen Arts Centre, Nauiyu, the Wadeye Aboriginal Languages Centre and the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education with funding from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

Output Group: Biological Parks

- Hosted Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council Tjanpi Desert Weavers for monthly weaving workshops with visitors to the Alice Springs Desert Park.

- Assisted the Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Dialysis Unit with the development of their bush medicine garden.
- Developed a partnership with Yipirinye School and the Central Australian Aboriginal Music Association to create a Bushtucker and Healing Plants Garden at Yipirinye School, using the expertise and facilities at the Alice Springs Desert Park.
- Continued the Adopt a School program with the Yipirinya School at the Alice Springs Desert Park to engage young local Indigenous students to experience career options, develop employability skills and build self esteem.
- Assisted the Alice Springs High School Intensive Needs Unit to propagate *Callitris glaucophylla* at the Alice Springs Desert Park for potted Christmas trees.
- Involved Casuarina Senior College students in the design and mapping of a bush mountain bike track at the Territory Wildlife Park.
- Hosted Certificate in Rural Operations and Certificate II in Agriculture students from Taminmin College through Youthworks NT at the Territory Wildlife Park, and continued work experience programs at the Alice Springs Desert Park, George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens and Territory Wildlife Park.
- Hosted the CSIRO Double Helix Club field excursion, Youth Week and Science Week activities, and ecotourism students from William Angliss College in Melbourne at the Alice Springs Desert Park.
- Hosted two DesArt in the Park Indigenous Art night markets and the Big November Night, a free night of local entertainment, at the Alice Springs Desert Park attracting 2433 visitors.
- Hosted at the Territory Wildlife Park;
 - two Twilight Nights attracting over 2000 visitors; and
 - two Toadbus evenings attracting 246 visitors and catching 624 toads.

- Hosted at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens;
 - Longtimers morning tea and Heritage Week afternoon tea for long term Darwin residents to develop a better understanding of the history of the gardens
 - Tropical Gardens Spectacular
 - Replant
 - Sorry Day commemorations; and
 - Significant parts of the Darwin Festival.

Output Group: Natural Resources

- Delivered presentations on the Soil Aquifer Treatment Project and Alice Springs Water Resources to schools in the Alice Springs area.
- Delivered presentations to the Daly River Management Advisory Committee on modelling the Daly water resources and modelling of the Ooloo Aquifer, and presented to the Roper River Landcare Group and other communities in the Gulf Region information on modelling the water resources of the Roper River.
- Participated in the Indigenous Technical Working Group for the Gulf Water Strategy during meetings at Seven Emu Station, Katherine and Eusey Station.
- Conducted information sessions with the Daly River Progress Society on the bedload transport work being undertaken on the reach of river between Beeboom Crossing and Woolianna.
- Worked with Aboriginal ranger groups, land councils and pastoralists through cooperative partnerships to stop the spread and further establishment of *Mimosa pigra* across the Top End wetlands.
- Conducted an extensive consultation process with key stakeholders and industry groups to inform the proposed restructure of the Northern Territory Weed Advisory Committee.

- Coordinated input from industry and community representatives and technical expertise through the Weed Risk Management Reference Group and Technical Working Group in the development and adoption of the Weed Risk Assessment process.
- Developed the [Tindall Limestone \(Katherine\) draft Water Allocation plan](#) through advice from the Katherine Water Advisory Committee and the Daly River Management Advisory Committee, and invited public comment on the draft Plan.
- Established the [Alice Springs Water Advisory Committee](#), tasked with providing advice regarding the implementation of the Alice Springs Water Allocation Plan.
- Established and enhanced collaborative projects with Indigenous landowners and ranger groups including:
 - Tiwi rangers for research and management of threatened plants and animals
 - Anindilyakwa rangers for research and management of threatened mammals (in particular the northern hopping-mouse (Groote Eylandt))
 - Dhimurru rangers for research and management of the Gove crow butterfly
 - Adjumarllarl and Jawoyn rangers for research and management of threatened *Boronia* plants (west Arnhem Land plateau and Nitmiluk areas)
 - Jawoyn rangers for research and management of the threatened northern shrike-tit
 - Gumurr Marthakal rangers for translocation of the threatened northern quoll and golden bandicoot (Wessel and English Company Islands, NE Arnhem Land)
 - Wardekker rangers for biodiversity surveys of the East Alligator area; and
 - Thamarrurr rangers for biodiversity surveys of the Macadam Range area (upper Daly land trust area).
- Consulted pastoral and Aboriginal landholders on the management of feral camels in central Australia and collaborated with rangers and Traditional Owners of Uluru Kata-Tjuta National Park on the impacts of camels on waterholes.
- Engaged the pastoral industry in monitoring and targeted surveys of threatened plants and animals in central Australia. This included working on Andado, New Crown, Umbearra, Henbury, Undoolya, Tempe Downs and Love's Creek pastoral properties and species such as brush-tailed mulgara, crest-tailed mulgara, kultarr, plains mouse, Slater's skink, *Acacia peuce*, *Acacia pickardii*, *Acacia undoolyana*, *Acacia latzii*.
- Worked with the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation to develop a conservation plan for the Oenpelli python, a threatened species that is restricted to the Arnhem Land plateau.
- Compiled Indigenous knowledge of mammals, and their decline, across Top End Aboriginal communities, using a comprehensive collection of mammal specimens as catalysts for engagement with older Aboriginal people in informal workshop settings.
- Worked with community groups and non-government conservation organisations, such as the Top End Native Plant Society, on monitoring of threatened species and evaluations of areas for acquisition for non-government reserves (e.g. Bush Heritage, Australian Wildlife Conservancy).
- Hosted a community workshop in Darwin on Coastal, Estuarine and Marine research priorities and indicators, which provided critical inputs for major conservation policies being developed for the Northern Territory, including the Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, Marine Research and Development Strategy, and the development of a Natural Resource Management Coastal Estuarine and Marine Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation Framework for the Darwin region.

- Developed a Territory-wide invasive ant project to educate the community about the damage posed by exotic ants and encouraging the community to actively collect specimens. This has involved schools from across the Northern Territory, including those in remote locations and has provided significant information about the value of native ants in the environment and the impacts that exotic ants can have on biodiversity in the Northern Territory.
- Consulted with relevant industry and hunting bodies in the Darwin region to help educate shooters on the need for the hunting of magpie goose to be sustainable.

Output Group: Environment and Sustainability

- Participated in the Casuarina Square Environment Expo which was aimed at increasing public awareness of sustainability issues and also participated in the World Environment Day Expo, held in Darwin, which included a display showcasing the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee.
- Supported community participation in climate change education events by sponsoring an Indigenous woman from Numbulwar, Ms Jocelyn Uibo, to attend the Australian Conservation Foundations' Climate Change Leadership Program, and sponsoring Mr Dean Yibarbuk's attendance at the International Forum on International Peoples and Climate Change: The Australian Tropical Perspective.
- Coordinated public presentations made by the Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge (TRaCK) researchers, hosted by the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee, on the TRaCK preliminary research on the ecological health of Darwin Harbour, effect of sewage outfall in the ecosystem health of a mangrove creek and nutrient cycling (particularly nitrogen) in the intertidal mudflats.
- Facilitated general community and stakeholder input into the following formally assessed projects;
 - Molyhill Tungsten/Molybdenum Project
 - Maud Creek Gold Mine

- Princess Louise; and
- North Point Gold Mine.

Output Group: Heritage Conservation

- Consulted with Heritage Alice Springs Inc and the general community regarding Pitchi Richi Sanctuary which resulted in the Heritage Advisory Council readdressing the heritage significance of Pitchi Richi and reversing its decision to proceed with the S24 process (public comment period).
- Consulted with the Katherine Town Council regarding the nominated Former Katherine Airport building and presented to Council a case for heritage listing of the building.
- Opened the East Arm Leprosarium Memorial in Darwin after four years of negotiation and consultation with the Land Development Corporation and Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. The Leprosarium was an important part of Darwin's heritage with hundreds of leprosy patients treated there from 1955 to 1982.
- Created a new interpretation project at Hermannsburg Historic Precinct in Alice Springs, which was a joint project with the Australian Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and involved consultation with the Ntaria Council.
- Interpreted and conserved Wurrwurrwuy Stone Pictures in consultation with the Dhimurru land owners in Nhulunbuy. These stone arrangements consist of a number of "pictures" that depict Macassan boats, houses and other elements of their material culture, that are represented in outline form by small to medium laterite rocks. Locally referred to as "stone pictures", these stone arrangements were probably made at the end of the 19th century.

Output Group: Scientific and Cultural Collections

- Completed the first repatriation of Strehlow Collection cultural property owned by the Northern Territory Government back to its Traditional Owners under the new *Strehlow Research Centre Act 2005*. This involved extensive consultation and improved coordination with key partners, relevant agencies and Indigenous communities.
- Commenced a community engagement program with the Eastern Arrernte community to identify potential rights to cultural objects which may be held by the Strehlow Research Centre.
- Worked with senior Traditional Owners on the Minjilang Endangered Languages Publications Project at Wilyi (Mountnorris Bay, Arnhem Land), about fish, their names and exchanging knowledge.
- Collaborated with members of the Rirritjingu Clan in the development of the Yalangbara Volume of Indigenous Art publication and launch.
- Provided tours of the Herbarium to Charles Darwin University's Conservation and Land management students, Northern Territory Herb Club, Menzies School of Health, Batchelor Institute, and the Top End Native Plant Society. The tours were tailored specifically for the respective audience and highlighted the services available to professionals and visitors.

Output Group: Arts and Screen Industry Support

- Undertook consultation and investigation through art sector meetings and ongoing discussions regarding the Indigenous Art Strategy *Building Strong Arts Business*.
- Funded the Indigenous music round table meeting in Darwin, held in partnership with the Northern Territory Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development, to assist in the development of an Indigenous Employment Strategy for the Northern Territory Music Territory. The process also included a Central Australian specific meeting in Alice Springs.

- Continued the Remote Festival Fund, which is now triennially supporting 11 community festivals in remote communities of the Northern Territory.
- Engaged remote communities in the screen production initiative, Yarning Up, with 10 participants travelling to Darwin to attend workshops. Four productions were selected to be made, which resulted in 40 people involved across three communities as well as in Darwin and Katherine.
- Undertook regular Arts Exchanges with the arts sector in Darwin, Alice Springs and Katherine as an opportunity for local arts workers and artists to come together with the Agency to discuss topics relevant to the Territory arts sector.
- Held theatre and performance forums in Alice Springs and Darwin, as part of a review initiated in partnership with the Australia Council for the Arts, to assess the current strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for the continued development of theatre in the Northern Territory.
- Engaged with the screen industry through meetings in Darwin and Alice Springs to ensure that the activities of the Northern Territory Government, through the Northern Territory Film Office, met with their expectations and are informed by their views.
- Continued active engagement with screen industry bodies in the Territory, including Film and Television Association of the Northern Territory and the Australian Cinematographers Society NT to ensure the Northern Territory Film Office remained connected with and understood industry issues and directions.

Our People



Overview

Employee commitment and satisfaction is critical in achieving the Agency's outcomes and ensuring its business services are delivered effectively and efficiently.

The Agency's Human Resources Services Branch has responsibility for facilitating effective workplace leadership of employees by providing a People Management Framework supported by relevant and effective policies and procedures. The goal is to ensure the Agency has the right number of employees with the right skills, and a workplace culture that will ensure it's positioned to meet its business requirements now and into the future.

The Branch also provides specialist advice to management and employees on a range of people management issues, and supports the Agency in achieving its business outcomes by ensuring it operates within the appropriate legislative frameworks.

The Human Resources Services Branch supports the Agency to build its capacity by facilitating a number of learning and development programs. This includes an active early careers program aimed at 'growing our own' to meet emerging business needs through the provision of entry level programs such as work experience, apprenticeships, graduates and traineeships.

Snapshot

- 901 people were employed with the Agency and located in 50 sites across the Territory, in the major centres of Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Darwin and at remote ranger stations.
- 65 per cent of staff were employed in the Technical and Professional streams, 27 per cent in the Administrative stream and the remaining 8 per cent in the Physical, Executive and Trainee streams.
- 123 employees were part-time; 87 were females and 36 were male.
- More than half of employees (59 per cent), were in the 31 to 50 year old age bracket.
- Male to female ratio in the Agency was 1:1
- Key initiatives included the development of a Performance Enhancement System, two training programs to strengthen the Agency's People Management Framework, and delivery of three programs to 45 senior managers as part of the Leadership Program.
- Agency corporate training initiatives attracted 601 employee attendances, with sessions held in Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine and Alice Springs.
- Expenditure on learning and development totalled approximately \$1.04 million and averaged \$1159 per employee.
- Five school-based apprentices were hosted or employed, all of whom were Indigenous; 21 adult apprentices were employed, including 17 Indigenous apprentices; three graduate trainees were employed; and nine work experience students were hosted.
- 55 employees negotiated flexible work agreements.
- The Agency won the Special category award in the 2007 Commissioner's Equity and Diversity Awards for using the Apprenticeship program to promote opportunities for youth with disabilities, and received a commendation in the Regional category.
- Three face-to-face induction programs were conducted in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs.
- 50 accident and injury reports were received, of which 31 resulted in a claim for workers compensation. A total of \$512 669.75 was spent on these and existing open claims.
- 106 employees and their family members accessed the Agency's Employee Assistance Program, with a total of 270 consultations provided.
- One action was commenced under Section 44 Inability to Discharge Duties which resulted in the employee resigning.
- Four Section 49 Discipline actions were commenced against employees and all cases remain open at the end of the reporting period.

Key Initiatives Implemented

Performance Enhancement System

In 2007-08 the Agency's Executive Leadership Group, Human Resources employees and a leadership consultancy developed a behaviour-based Performance Enhancement System to replace the existing performance agreement process. The Performance Enhancement System is focused on enhancing the working relationship between managers and the people reporting to them. It also integrates related activities such as succession planning, annual performance reporting and individual learning and development. Refinement of the Performance Enhancement System will continue during 2008-09 as it is rolled out across the Agency.

People Management Framework

To continue to build and strengthen the Agency's People Management Framework, two training initiatives were identified for development during 2007-08.

The first was the development and trial of a new training program, Prevention of Workplace Bullying and Harassment, which is designed to support the Anti-bullying Policy, Procedure and associated material introduced in 2006-07. Feedback received from trial participants is being used by Human Resources employees and the training provider to make further refinements before the program is made available across the Agency.

The second training initiative, which will also support the Performance Enhancement System, was the development of a Giving and Receiving Feedback program. This is designed to help employees understand feedback and when it is required, identify appropriate formal and informal styles of feedback, prepare for formal feedback sessions and give and receive effective feedback, both positive and negative.

At the end of this reporting period this program was still being trialled for the purpose of refining learning content prior to being rolled out across the Agency.

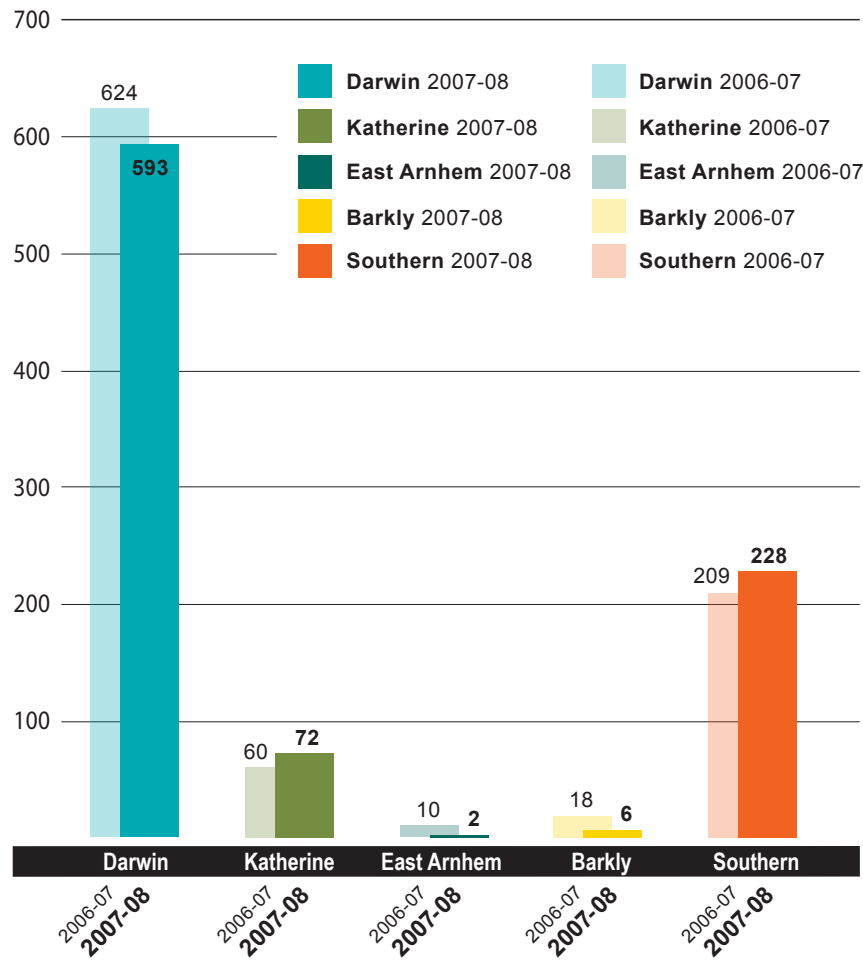
Leadership Development Program

The Agency continued to progress its Leadership Development Program and delivered three programs to 45 senior managers during 2007-08. The program runs for three and half days and culminates in participants forming Syndicate Groups and presenting assigned tasks to the Executive Leadership Group and the Director's Forum.

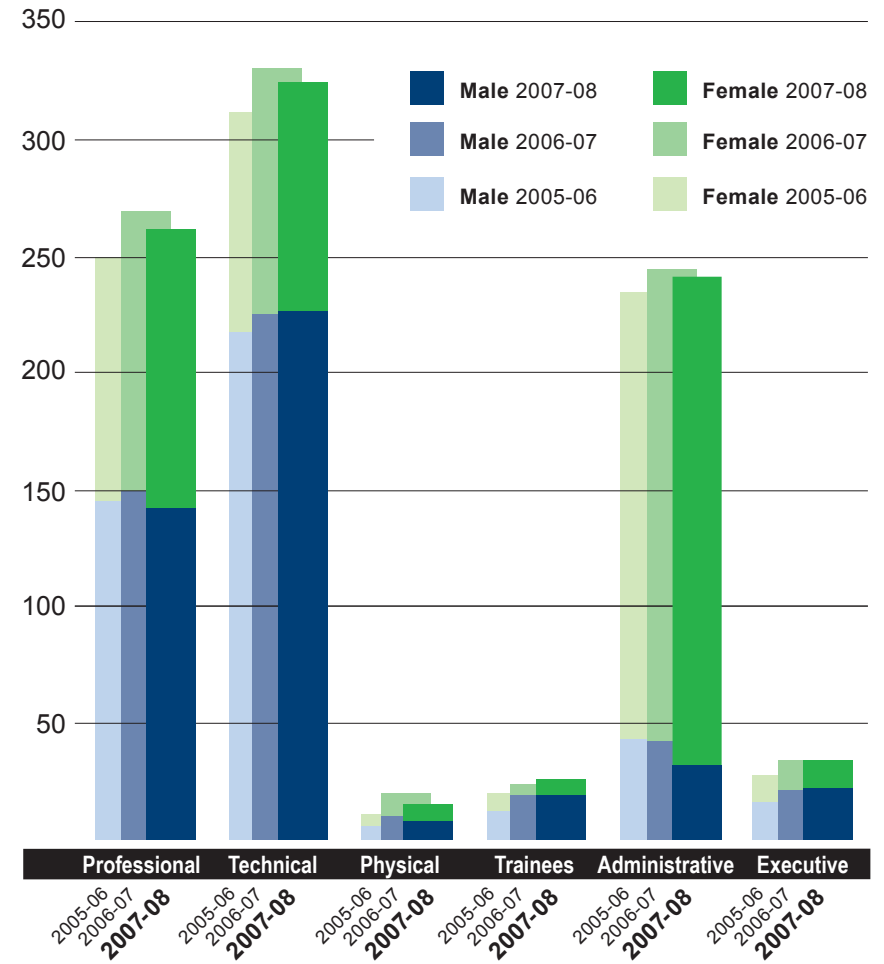
The Leadership Development Program is derived from Elliott Jaques' Stratified System Theory and also draws on systems thinking, with individual understanding and development supported by the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. The program also introduces Teamwork and Task Assignment models.

The Leadership Development Program is integral to the Performance Enhancement System, with key concepts of the Program used to support the daily work of leaders in the Agency.

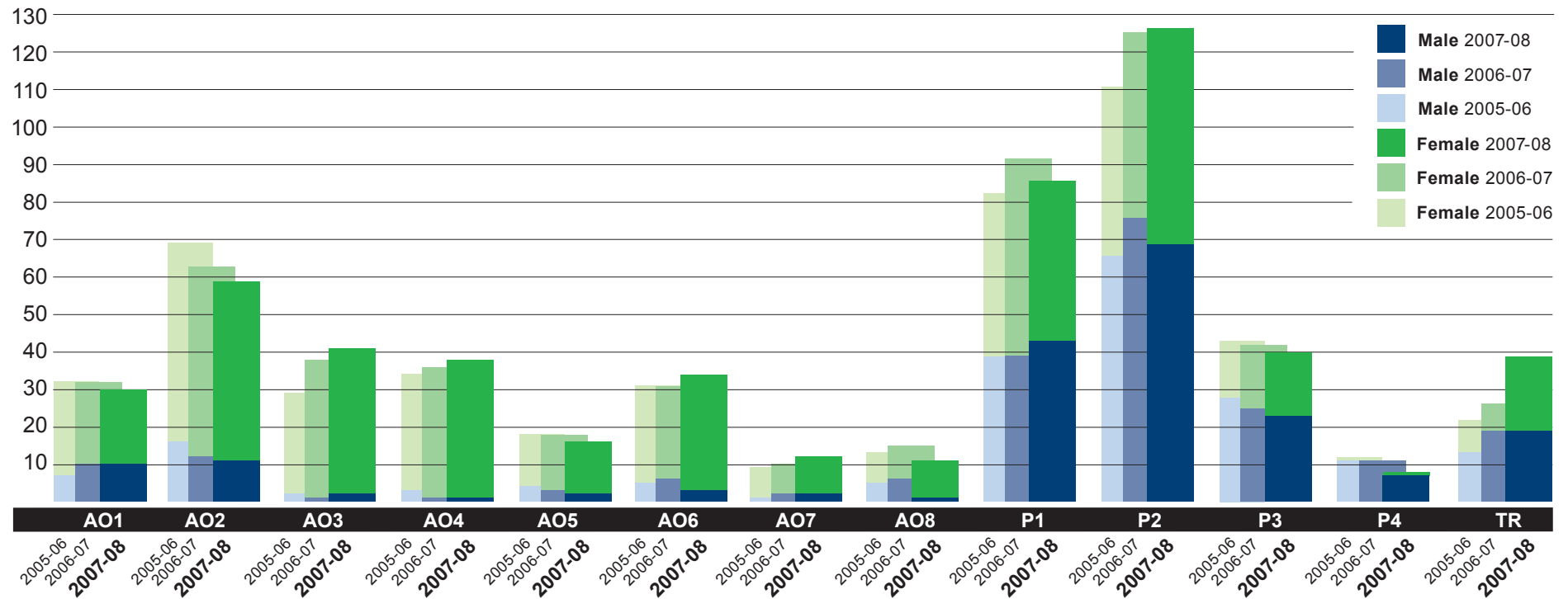
Employees by Region



Staff Stream Profile



Staffing by Stream and Classification - Administrative, Professional and Trainees

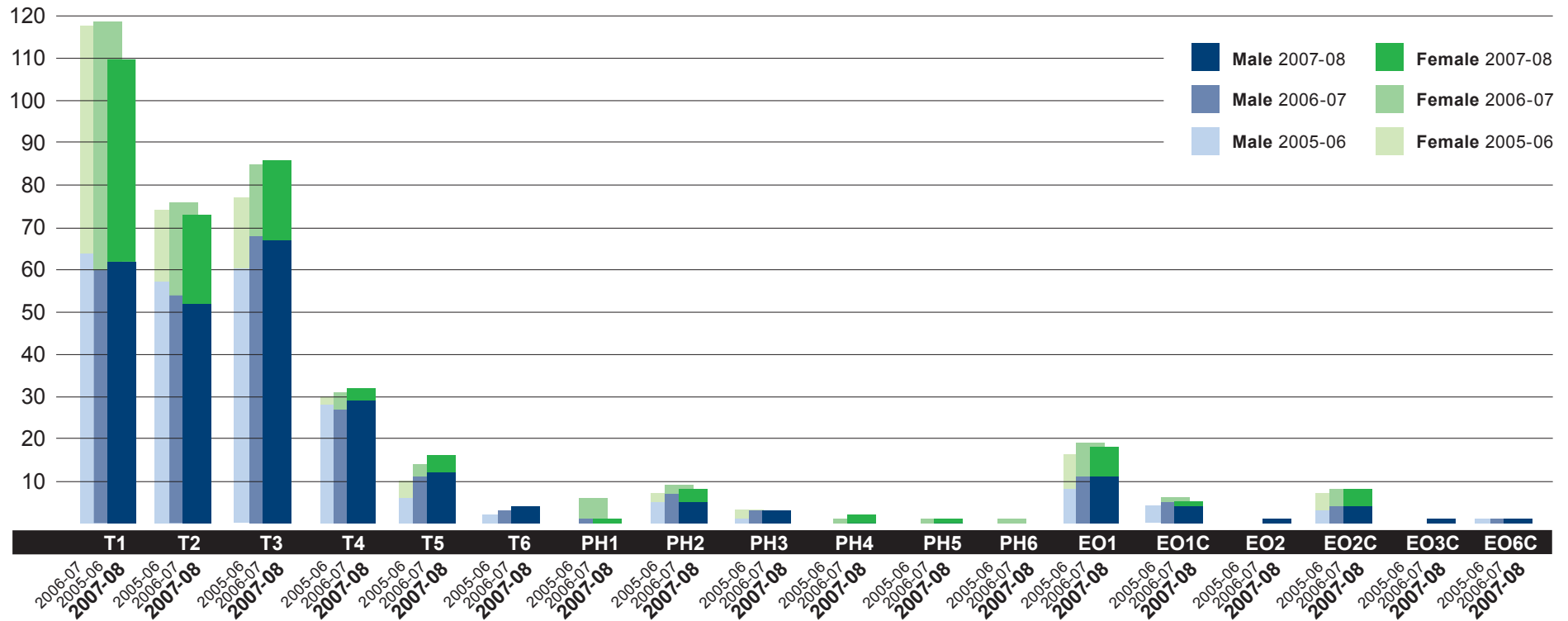


AO: Administrative Stream Occupations: Communications Consultant, Board Administration Officer, Human Resource Consultant, Accountant/Finance Officer, Journalist/Media Officer, Records and Information Officer, Personal Assistant, Parks and Wildlife Permits Officer, Concessions/Contract Officer, Grants Officer, Exhibition Officer, Visual Arts and General Arts Officer, IT Officer, Customer Service Officer, Project Officer, Marketing Officer, Business Officer, General Administrative Assistant.

P: Professional Stream Occupations: Scientist (eg Biodiversity, Ecologist, Marine, Botanist, Geophysicist, Geologist, Zoologist, Anthropologist), Heritage Conservation Officer, Curator, Taxonomist, Taxidermist, Ranger, Librarian, Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) Officer, Water Engineer, Zoologist, Environmental Scientist (eg Development Assessment, Pollution, Environment Monitoring and Compliance).

TR: Trainees: Graduates, National Indigenous Cadets, Apprentices, School-Based Apprentices, Joint Management Trainees.

Staffing by Stream and Classification - Technical, Physical and Executive

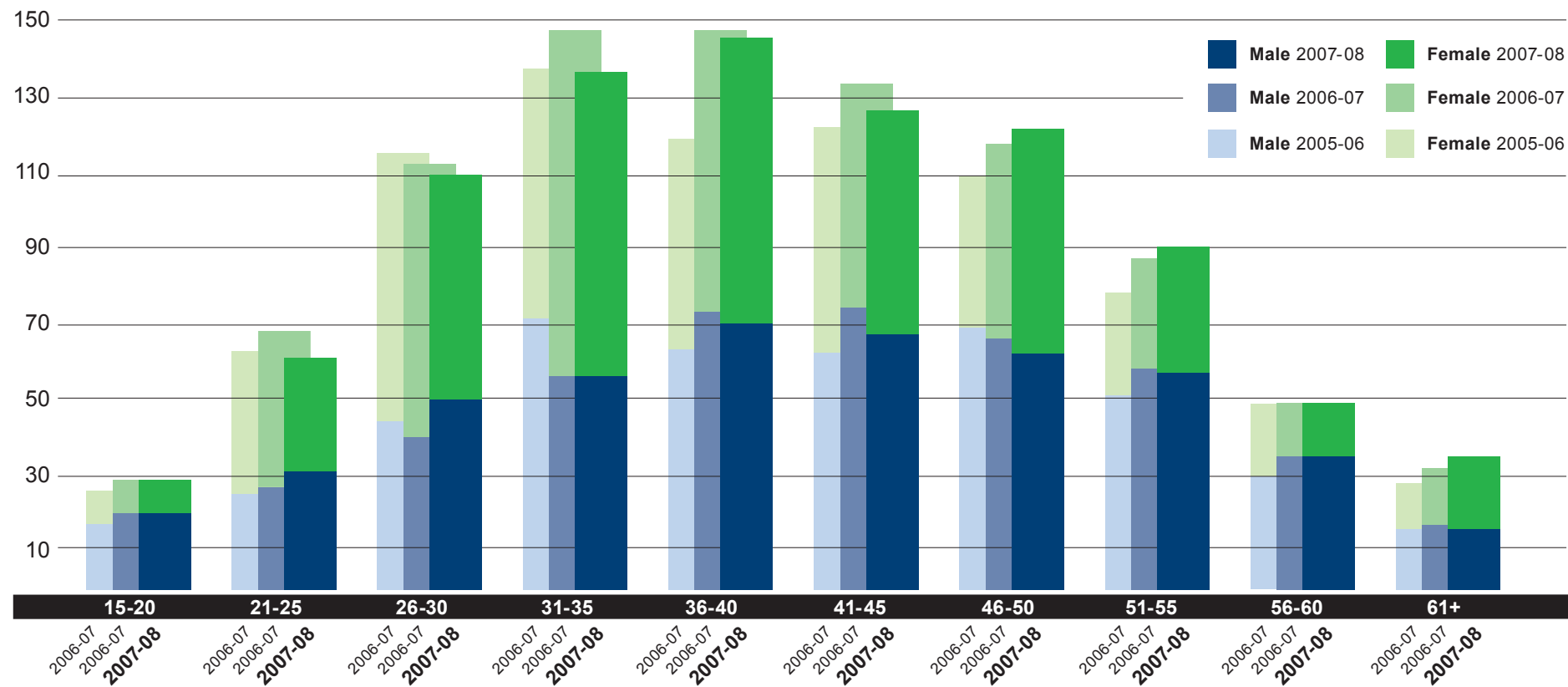


T: Technical Stream Occupations: Bore/Drill Test Officer, Ranger, Wildlife Officer, Facilities Management Officer, Natural Resource Management Officer (eg weed, soil, landcare), Bushfire Control Officer, Hydrologist, Cartographer/Mapping Officer, Horticulturalist, Interpretative/Education Officer, Zoo Keeper, Tour Guide, Facilities Maintenance Officer.

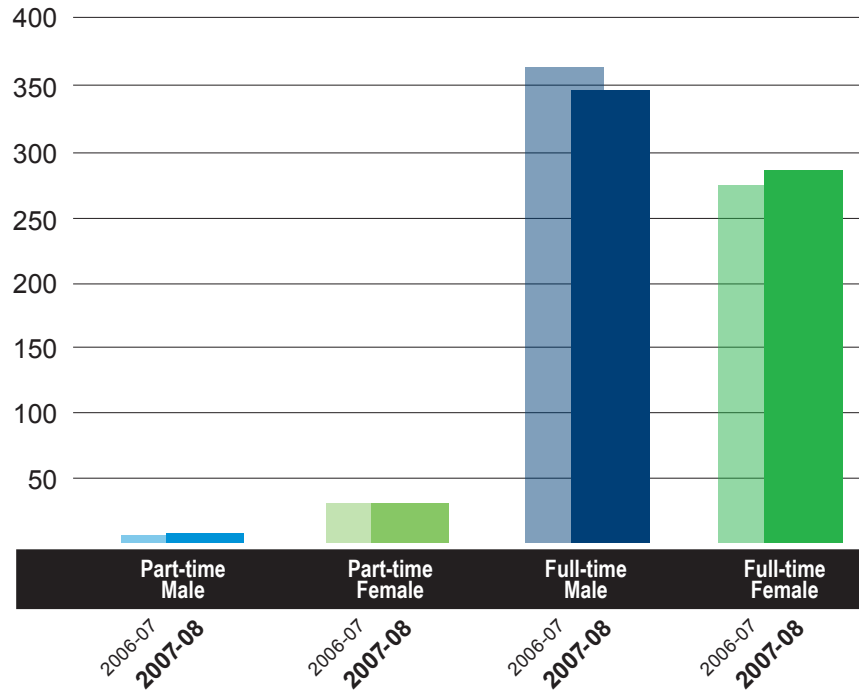
PH: Physical Stream Occupations: Cleaner, Catering/Cafeteria and Retail Officers, Park Maintenance Ranger.

EO: Executive and Executive Contract Stream Occupations: Chief Executive, Executive Director, Director.

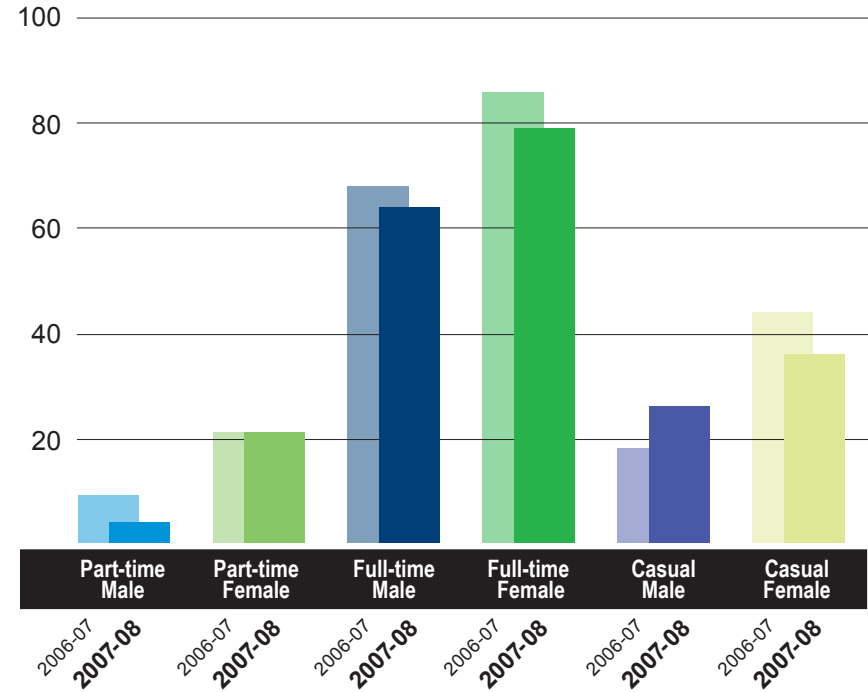
Staffing by Age



Staffing by Employment Status - Permanent



Staffing by Employment Status - Temporary



A **permanent** employee may be employed on either a full-time or part-time basis. Permanent employment applies where there is no end date to the employment and the appointment cannot be terminated except in accordance with the *Public Sector Employment Act*. Fixed period arrangements are available to permanent employees on terms and conditions determined by the Commissioner of Public Employment.

A **temporary** employee is employed for a specified period of time and is not on a permanent basis. Temporary employment may be either on a full-time, part-time or casual basis. A temporary employment contract may be terminated by either party in accordance with the provisions of the contract.

* Information taken from the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act* - Employment Instruction no 1: Advertising, selection, appointment, transfer and promotion.

Learning and Professional Development

The purpose of learning and development activities is to ensure the Agency has the organisational capability to respond to current and future business challenges. The Agency actively encourages the professional development of its employees to ensure they are adequately equipped to carry out their responsibilities.

The Agency has a two-pronged approach for learning and development, where business units are responsible for managing employee access to development opportunities focused on core business needs. Additionally the Agency facilitates a number of learning and development activities which are organised to strengthen the employee's corporate capabilities and accountabilities and Agency leadership. These activities inherently support the work of the Agency's business units, but are in addition to core business learning and development activities.

Corporate Training

In 2007-08 there were 601 attendances in Agency corporate training initiatives, with sessions held in Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine and Alice Springs. These included:

- Recruitment – Employee Selection Training - designed to provide supervisors and managers with the skills to select, induct and retain a skilled workforce.
- Recruitment – Chairperson Training - designed to provide the selection panel Chairperson with specific skills required to chair a selection panel effectively.
- Creating Career Success - designed to assist individuals plan their own career changes and transitions, identify personal and professional goals and aspirations.
- Code of Conduct - designed to enhance employees' knowledge of ethical business practices and to provide practical strategies for dealing with situations that arise at work. This workshop draws on the *Northern Territory Public Sector (NTPS) Principles and Code of Conduct*, as set out in Regulations under the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, as the source document which sets out the conduct expected of all Northern Territory Public Service employees and the values they are obliged to uphold.
- Cross Cultural Awareness – designed to improve and explore the complexities of cross cultural interaction.
- Springboard – a career and personal development program designed to empower women in the workforce.
- Communicating with Impact - designed to enhance and foster effective communication within teams and the organisation, including enhancing listening skills and effective use of language and feedback.
- Certificate IV in Government (Investigations) – 57 staff across the agency are enrolled in this course which will strengthen environmental protection efforts across the Northern Territory.
- Ministerial Writing – 49 staff across the Agency attended this course which is designed to develop tools in writing effective ministerials.
- How to write a Job Analysis Questionnaire – designed to develop skills for writing Job Analysis Questionnaires and understanding of the difference between Job Analysis Questionnaires and Job Descriptions.
- Job Evaluation System - designed to develop the skills to assess the work value of a particular job relative to other jobs.
- Remote Workforce Development – Sustaining Remote Employee Workshops – aimed to enhance career and personal development for 35 supervisors based in or managing staff based in remote areas.

Supporting Remote Area Staff

In 2007-08 two Sustaining Remote Employee Workshops were delivered to 35 supervisors based in or managing staff based in remote areas. The workshops were aimed at enhancing career and personal development, and building positive teamwork practices in remote areas. In the Victoria River District team building sessions were held for Parks and Wildlife staff. One employee from a remote area won a scholarship, worth \$4585, through the Northern Territory Government's Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment's Remote Workforce Development Strategy to gain a Certificate of Competency as a Coxswain.

Public Sector Management Program

In 2007-08 four employees were enrolled in the Public Sector Management Program. This Program is a joint venture between commonwealth, state and territory governments, and equips middle to senior managers to meet challenges by providing them with the knowledge and abilities required to become effective public sector leaders.

Studies Assistance

Forty-one employees accessed Studies Assistance during 2007-08 to undertake studies ranging from certificates to masters programs. The Agency strongly supports employees gaining relevant professional and technical skills through higher education studies. Of the 41 employees, 32 received financial assistance, at an average rate of \$1 158.35 per employee.

Learning and Professional Expenditure

Core business-driven employee development during 2007-08 was encouraged through attendance at conferences, seminars and workshops on topics ranging from botanic gardens, wildlife management, Australian environmental law enforcement and regulators network, human resource management and protected area management.

| Learning and development expenditure | 2005-06 Agency | 2006-07 Agency | 2007-08 Agency |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total employees ⁽¹⁾ | 852 | 921 | 901 |
| Total learning and development expenditure | \$410 675 | \$659 457 | \$1 044 006 |
| Total employee expenditure ⁽²⁾ | \$52 402 521 | \$55 450 000 | \$57 627 890 |
| Learning and development costs as a % of employee expenditure | 0.78% | 1.19% | 1.81% |
| Training expenditure per employee | \$482 | \$716 | \$1 159 |

Notes

(1) Actual headcount and includes full-time, part-time and casual employees

(2) Includes Trainees expenditure

This table does not include the Agency's commitment to its study assistance program.

Future Priorities for Professional Development

Under the current Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) a range of professional incentives were negotiated to address challenges faced by the Public Sector in recruiting and retaining professional staff. These included:

1. Professional Development Allowance - capped reimbursement of professional development costs
2. Professional Excellence Status Scheme - financially rewarding professional staff who demonstrate excellence in their area of expertise
3. Professional Recruitment and Retention Scheme - in areas of significant market shortfalls, the Agency may apply to pay a market allowance or offer incentives to attract staff at the Professional 3 and 4 level.

In 2008-09 the Agency will develop improved approaches to supporting and developing professional staff as part of the EBA.

Another key priority will be to develop workforce planning mechanisms. This is needed to address the challenges posed by skills shortages, a shrinking labour market, the increasingly flexible and individualistic expectations of staff and an ageing workforce.

Trainees

The Agency offers a range of early careers programs aimed at 'growing our own' employees. These programs include school-based apprenticeships, adult apprenticeships and graduate traineeships.

Apprenticeships

The Australian Apprenticeships initiative provides Territorians with an opportunity to gain a trade-level qualification through a structured employment and training program in the Agency. The length of apprenticeships varies depending on the qualification being obtained. For example a Certificate III in Captive Animals (Zoo Keeping) takes four years to obtain, while a Certificate III in Business takes one year.

In 2007-08 the Agency employed or hosted five school-based apprentices, all of whom were Indigenous.

A total of 21 adult apprentices were employed in 2007-08, including 17 Indigenous apprentices. Five apprentices successfully completed the program. Two of these apprentices are currently employed with the Agency and the other three left for personal reasons. Four contracts were terminated through abandonment of employment / poor performance or resignation and 12 adult apprentices are continuing their employment with the Agency in 2008-09.

Graduate Trainees

The Graduate Traineeship Program provides recent university graduates with a broad range of workplace experiences and challenges to equip them to become future leaders and managers. In 2007-08 three graduate trainees were employed and remained in the program at the end of the reporting period.

Work Experience Students

The Agency hosted nine work experience students who were participating in university-based programs or school-based work-ready programs. Some placements were for four weeks and required a high degree of commitment and supervision from Agency employees to support and guide students through the requirements of their particular program.

Equity, Diversity and Flexibility

The Agency is committed to meeting its responsibilities in relation to the key whole of government employment strategies that promote equity, diversity and flexibility in the workplace.

The Agency is represented on the following committees:

- Work Life Balance
- Indigenous Employment and Career Development
- Women in Leadership and Management
- Remote Workforce Development
- Willing and Able
- Senior Reference Group on Multicultural Affairs

Work Life Balance

The Agency is committed to assisting its employees achieve a balance between the needs of the Agency and their personal life under the Whole of Government employment strategy, Work Life Balance.

A number of different arrangements have been negotiated across the Agency in 2007-08:

- Five AO1 employees access flexible rostering arrangements to assist them to meet personal needs
- Two AO2 employees work flexible shift hours, one AO2 has negotiated flexible working hours and two AO2 employees work part time
- One AO3 has a flexible home-based work agreement
- One AO5 has negotiated a nine day fortnight
- One AO6 has negotiated flexible hours to assist with university attendance and another AO6 has negotiated to work part-time
- One AO7 has negotiated to work part-time
- Two PH2 employees job share

- Two T1 employees job-share and one T1 has negotiated flexible hours
- Seven T1 and one T2 Desert Park guides work on a roster with varying start and finish times, and flexible rostering arrangements to assist meet business and personal needs
- Three T3 employees have negotiated part time hours and three others have negotiated flexible hours
- One T5 works reduced hours over 5 days per week
- One P1/T2 works part-time
- One P1 works part-time
- Seven P2 employees work part-time, four P2 employees job-share and two P2 employees have negotiated a nine day fortnight
- One P3 worked three days per week for 10 months, one P3 has negotiated to work three days a week and another has negotiated flexible hours to meet family needs
- Two Executive Officers have negotiated to work flexible and part-time hours.

In addition to supporting the Northern Territory Government's Work Life Balance strategy through flexible work practices, the Human Resources Services Branch facilitated employee attendance at Superannuation and Retirement Seminars designed to assist participants understand and plan for their financial future. Sessions were held in Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine and Alice Springs. A Money Skills course, designed to provide participants with better skills to manage their personal finances, was provided in Katherine and Alice Springs.

Indigenous Employment and Career Development

The Agency is committed to improving Indigenous career outcomes. In 2006-07, an Agency specific Indigenous Employment and Career Development Action Plan was endorsed by the Executive Leadership Group and in 2007-08 a reference group was established and commenced preliminary activities to implement some of the key actions of the Plan. For example, an Agency-specific handbook on engaging and communicating with Indigenous people is being developed.

The Plan was supported through various activities during the year, including the provision of cross cultural awareness sessions in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs, encouraging employees to attend Indigenous mentoring workshops, and training of supervisors.

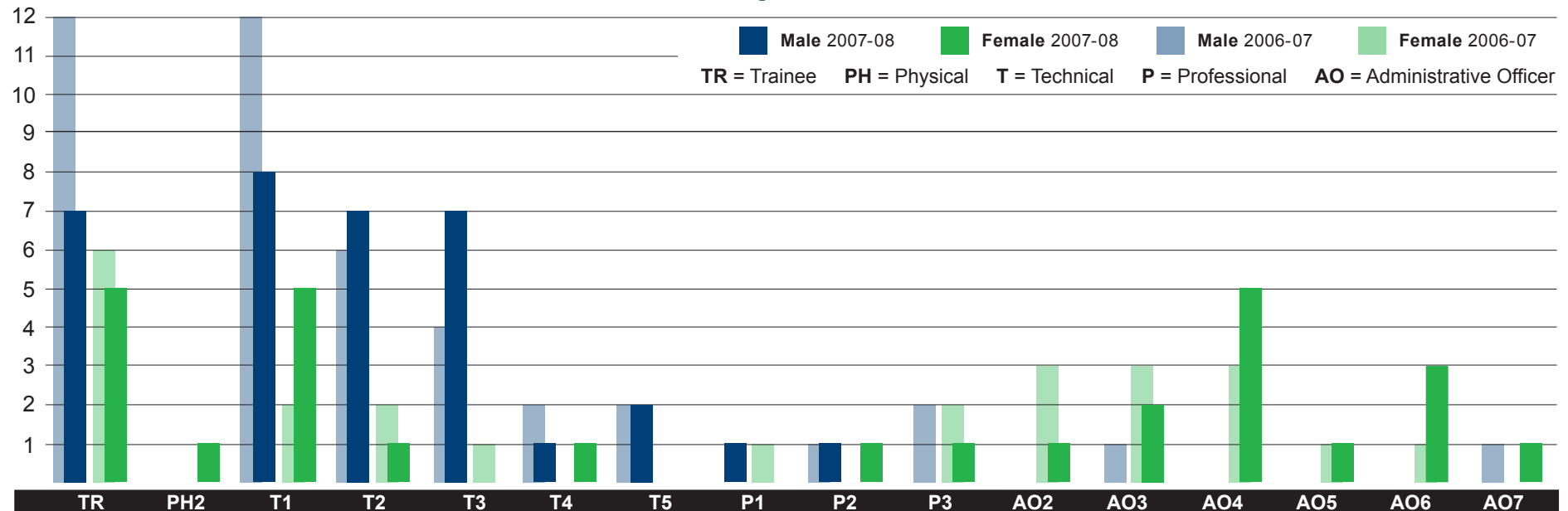
Recruitment activities were also undertaken as part of the Agency's commitment to 'growing our own' by utilising training programs, such as school-based and adult apprenticeships to develop future rangers, zoo keepers and horticulturists.

Indigenous Apprentices

In 2007-08 the Agency employed or hosted five Indigenous school-based apprentices. One school-based apprentice completed their apprenticeship and four are continuing in 2008-09.

Seventeen Indigenous adult apprentices were employed within the Agency during the reporting period. Seven were employed in the Biological Parks Division (Territory Wildlife Park, Alice Springs Desert Park and George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens), eight within the Parks Division, one with the Biodiversity Conservation Division and one with Natural Resource Management.

Staff Identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander



Note: Identification as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is voluntary. Therefore data in the above table cannot be guaranteed as accurately reflecting the diversity of the Agency.

Of the 17 apprentices, two contracts were terminated due to abandonment of employment, one resigned and one was terminated due to poor performance. Four completed the program, with one directly appointed to a ranger position and the other three moving elsewhere for personal reasons. Nine apprentices are continuing their employment with the Agency in 2008-09.

Women in Leadership Management

The Agency actively supports the Whole of Government initiative Women in Leadership and Management and in 2007-08 supported:

- Springboard - A Development Program for Women which is designed to provide female employees in middle management roles with skills to decide on the steps, and take those next steps for their development. The course includes how to differentiate between a mentor, coach and a manager; applying the fundamentals of teamwork; solving problems using different communication types; interpreting the effects of change in the workplace and learning how to employ methods of balancing work and home. Given the level of interest within the Agency for this program two workshops were specifically arranged for Agency employees in 2007-08. Thirty one employees were approved to attend and all completed the program.
- The Northern Territory Public Sector Discovery Women as Leaders program is designed to assist women develop greater confidence (including confidence in valuing their own backgrounds and cultures), learn leadership skills and build valuable support and business networks. Learning outcomes are designed to provide participants with a high level of personal awareness in order to have the confidence and capability to lead, mentor and coach others in complex and challenging environments. This is achieved through learning about self awareness and personal effectiveness, and achievement through teams and strategic leadership. Eight places were secured on each of the two courses offered in 2007-08 and all employees completed the program.

Diversity

The Agency has a diverse workforce and is committed to recognising and supporting its employees. Diversity in the Agency is promoted through its Diversity Policy, which acknowledges the contribution that all employees bring to a workplace.

It strives to maintain an environment that is free from bullying, harassment and discriminatory practices by continuing to encourage employees to participate in employee selection training, antidiscrimination, harassment and cross cultural training as well as providing relevant policy and procedure documentation on the Agency's Intranet.

In 2007-08 the Agency won the special category award in the 2007 Commissioner's Equity and Diversity Awards for using the apprenticeship program to promote opportunities for youth with disabilities, and received a commendation in the regional category. The Awards recognise and celebrate commitment in achieving an equitable and diverse workforce that is representative of the Northern Territory community at all levels of employment.

Equal Employment Opportunity

The Agency is committed to meeting its statutory equal employment obligations and to ensure fairness in relation to employment procedures.

The Agency last conducted its Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Census in May 2007 which resulted in approximately 77 per cent of employees recording their EEO details in the Personnel Integrated Pay System. The importance of EEO data is that it assists the Agency develop workforce strategies, as well as enable the Agency to support Whole of Government workforce strategies, including the reporting of Indigenous employment. The next Census is planned for May 2009.

Employment Instructions

| Employment Instruction and Agency Requirement | Agency Action |
|---|---|
| <p>No 1. Advertising, Selection, Appointment, Transfer and Promotion</p> <p>Agency to develop procedures on recruitment and selection for internal use. Chief Executive required to report annually on the number of employees in each designation and variations since the last report.</p> | <p>Recruitment policy and pro forma documentation is available on the Agency's Intranet.</p> <p>During the reporting period the Agency placed a total of 282 vacancies on the Employment Opportunities website as single or various positions available. This resulted in 273 commencements, comprising of 36 permanent and 237 temporary.</p> <p>One promotion appeal was lodged with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment during the period, which was disallowed.</p> |
| <p>No 2. Probation</p> <p>Chief Executive shall develop a probationary process for their Agency and convey details of the probationary process to employees within their first week of reporting for duty.</p> | <p>Information about the probation process is available on the Agency's Intranet and new employees are directed to this site on their commencement.</p> <p>In 2007-08 the Human Resources unit provided regular reports to senior management on the status of employee probations.</p> |
| <p>No 3. Natural Justice</p> <p>The rules of natural justice to be observed in all dealings with employees.</p> | <p>The principles of natural justice are required to be observed in all dealings with employees and are promoted on the Agency's Intranet.</p> |
| <p>No 4. Performance Management</p> <p>Chief Executive is to report annually on management training and staff development programs. Chief Executive shall develop and implement performance management systems for their Agency.</p> | <p>Performance Management documentation is available on the Agency's Intranet.</p> <p>Employees participated in performance agreement processes as a mechanism to seek constructive feedback. This involved employees discussing with their manager work plans, skill gaps, careers plans, mentoring and/or training to meet individual and work unit goals. During this reporting period work was undertaken to develop a behaviour based Performance Enhancement System which will replace the current performance agreement process.</p> |
| <p>No 5. Medical Incapacity</p> <p>No Agency action or reporting requirements.</p> | <p>Advice is provided to managers as required by the Human Resources unit.</p> |

No 6. Inability to Discharge Duties

Chief Executive to provide the Northern Territory Government's Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment with information on the extent to which this employment instruction has been used by the Agency. Chief Executive may establish procedures regarding this employment instruction within their Agency.

One action was commenced in 2007-08 under Section 44 Inability to Discharge Duties which resulted in the employee resigning.

No 7. Discipline

Chief Executive to provide the Northern Territory Government's Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment with information on the extent to which this employment instruction has been used by the Agency. Chief Executive may establish procedures regarding discipline within their Agency.

Four Section 49 Discipline actions were commenced against employees and all cases remain open at the end of the reporting period.

No 8. Management of Grievances

Chief Executive shall establish written grievance setting procedures for the Agency that should be available to employees and outline steps for dealing with grievances.

Grievance policy documentation is available on the Agency's Intranet.

Three Section 59 Grievances were received during the reporting period, two in Alice Springs and one in Darwin. In one case the action was declined, in another the Agency was directed to take action, and at the end of the reporting period one case remains open.

No 9. (Incorporated in Employment Instruction 1).

No 10. Employee Records

Agencies are required to maintain appropriate employee records and implement procedures for maintaining and accessing these records.

All personnel files are securely maintained by the Department of Corporate and Information Services on behalf of the Agency. Access to personnel files and the Personnel Integrated Pay System (PIPS) database is restricted to an 'in-confidence' level.

No 11. Equal Employment Opportunity Management Programs

Chief Executive to devise and implement programs to ensure equal employment opportunities and outcomes are achieved.

Equal Employment policies are available on the Agency's Intranet.

Details of Equal Employment Opportunity programs are provided earlier in this section of the report.

Chief Executive to report annually on programs and initiatives the Agency has developed. Report should also include details on specific action in relation to Aboriginal employment and career development, and also measures to enable employees to balance work and family responsibilities.

No 12. Occupational Health and Safety Programs

Chief Executive to develop programs to ensure employees are consulted in the development and implementation of Occupational Health and Safety programs.

Chief Executive to report annually on Occupational Health and Safety programs. Records must be kept on risk assessment, maintenance control and information, instruction and training provided to employees.

No 13. Code of Conduct

Chief Executive may issue guidelines regarding acceptance of gifts and benefits to employees. Chief Executive may issue an Agency specific Code of Conduct.

No 14. Part Time Employment

Chief Executive to advise unions on a six monthly basis of the number of part time employees by salary stream.

[Occupational Health and Safety Program policy](#) and procedures are available on the Agency's Intranet.

Workplace inspections on behalf of the Agency are conducted by the Department of Corporate and Information Services' Occupation Health and Safety unit.

Occupational Health and Safety training is part of the Agency's Induction program.

New employees are provided with a copy of the Code of Conduct booklet as part of their commencement package. All employees have access to the electronic version of the [Code of Conduct booklet](#) via the Northern Territory Government Intranet.

The Code of Conduct training program was delivered in Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine and Alice Springs to 139 participants. The program is designed to enhance people's knowledge of ethical business practices and to provide practical strategies for dealing with situations that arise at work. The workshop draws on the *Northern Territory Public Sector (NTPS) Principles and Code of Conduct* as the source document which sets out the conduct expected of all Northern Territory Public Sector employees and the values they are obliged to uphold.

The Agency is supportive of part-time working arrangements and other flexible arrangements.

At the end of 2007-08, 123 employees were working on a part-time basis. Of the employees who worked part time, 87 were females and 36 were male.

Induction

Three face-to-face Induction Programs were conducted in 2007-08 in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs. A Code of Conduct Workshop was delivered in conjunction with the Induction Program to ensure employees were informed of their obligations and rights as public service employees. The joint Program is scheduled twice per year to allow all new employees to participate.

Probation

In 2007-08, 54 employees were subject to probation. The outcomes were as follows:

| Outcome | 2005-06 Number of Employees | 2006-07 Number of Employees | 2007-08 Number of Employees |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Currently under probation | 13 | 19 | 18 |
| Confirmed at 3 months (within probation period) | 12 | 9 | 13 |
| Confirmed at 6 months (within probation period) | 12 | 16 | 19 |
| Probation extended to 12 months | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Resigned | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Transferred to Executive Contract | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Probation automatically confirmed | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 48 | 45 | 54 |

Industrial Relations

There were no industrial relations actions in 2007-08.

As part of the *Northern Territory Public Sector 2004-07 Certified Agreement*, all Physical and Technical classification positions which had not been evaluated since 1 August 2002 were required to be reviewed by January 2007. Of the 371 Agency positions affected by the review, 351 positions required evaluation of which eight were in the Physical stream and 343 were Technical positions. In the previous financial year evaluation of 138 of these positions was completed.

At the end of 2007-08 a further 84 positions were assessed and completed, four generic Job Analysis Questionnaires covering 103 positions were developed, five positions remained outstanding and the remainder were in the process of evaluation.

Occupational Health and Safety

The Agency is committed to the health, safety and welfare of all its employees and continued to work in conjunction with the Northern Territory Government Department of Corporate and Information Services (DCIS) Workplace Injury Solutions Unit to provide its Occupational Health and Safety program.

The Agency utilised the following DCIS services:

- workplace and workstation inspections;
- advice and assistance;
- reporting; and
- compensation claims management.

In 2007-08 briefing sessions with the DCIS and the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment occurred regarding employer and employee obligations resulting from the introduction of the new *Workplace Health and Safety Act*.

Workers Compensation Claims

A total of 50 accident and injury reports were received in 2007-08, of which 31 resulted in a claim for workers compensation. A total of \$512 669.75 was spent on these and existing open claims which included settlement of an outstanding Normal Weekly Earnings query arising from an interpretation issue pertinent to Emergency Services Volunteers. This represents a decrease of \$52 480.13 on the previous year.

The Agency's Early Intervention program continued to result in a slight reduction in the number of compensation claims lodged for minor medical cost only injuries. The program has been broadened to include preventative intervention strategies for non-physical injuries. Intervention strategies such as the use of counselling, mediation, workplace assessments and coaching were employed successfully to minimise the risk of potentially protracted compensation claims.

| Type of claim | 2005-06 Number of Claims | 2006-07 Number of Claims | 2007-08 Number of Claims |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Lost time Injuries | 22 | 13 | 20 |
| Medical Expenses Only | 10 | 17 | 11 |
| Total number | 32 | 30 | 31 |
| Total cost | \$390 588.50 | \$565 149.88 | \$512 669.75 |

Employee Assistance Program

The Agency has a formal [Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#) with Employee Assistance Service NT Incorporated. This is a confidential counselling service for employees and their family members seeking assistance with personal, family and workplace issues that may be affecting their work performance, productivity and wellbeing.

The Agency also uses the services of Darwin Consulting Psychologists to support managers and employees on specific issues.

In 2007-08 106 employees and their family members accessed the Agency's EAP program with a total of 270 consultations provided.

Flu Program

The Agency continued its Flu Vaccination Program in Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine and Alice Springs, with 45 employees participating in the program; a slight increase from the previous year.

Employee and Agency Achievements

In 2007-08 the Agency and its employees, through their work, have been recognised for Agency and individual awards. Additionally, many employees have performed keynote speaking opportunities, a reflection of their experience and expertise.

Awards

- Dr John Woinarski, Principal Scientist with Biodiversity Conservation, received both the Chief Minister's Award for Research and Innovation and the Tropical Knowledge Research Award, at the 2008 Northern Territory Research and Innovation Awards.
- Dr Glenn Edwards, Principal Scientist with Biodiversity Conservation, led the Desert Fire Research Team which won the Desert Knowledge Research Award at the 2008 Northern Territory Research and Innovation Awards.
- Damian Milne, from the Biodiversity Conservation Division, was awarded Best Presentation at the Australian Bat Society conference for his presentation on the conservation and status of the bare-rumped sheath-tail bat.
- Dr Barry Russell, Principal Scientist for Marine Biodiversity, was awarded an Australian Academy of Sciences International Science Linkages Programme Travel Award to visit Taiwan to undertake collaborative research at the Research Centre for Biodiversity, Academia Sinica, Taipei.
- Graeme Talbot Jr from Parks Division was awarded the 2008 Group Training NT School-based Apprentice of the Year. This award recognised Graeme's extraordinary enthusiasm, team work and bush skills.
- Michelle Walker, from the Natural Resource Management Division, won the Northern Territory Young Achiever Environment Award for her work on water conservation in Central Australia.
- Alice Springs Desert Park was awarded a Northern Territory Broilga Award for Tourism Excellence for Major Tourist Attraction.
- Alice Springs Desert Park was awarded the 2008 Australasian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria Research Award for its red-tailed phascogale research program. The project was aimed at identifying the most successful release strategy for captive born animals, including investigating optimum age for release, as well as the most appropriate breeding regime and reproductive strategy.
- Bushfires NT, as part of the West Arnhem Land Wildfire Abatement team, was a joint recipient of the Australian Museum Eureka Award for Innovative Solutions to Climate Change.
- The Agency won the Special category award in the 2007 Commissioner's Equity and Diversity Awards for using the apprenticeship program to promote opportunities for youth with disabilities, and received a commendation in the regional category. The Awards recognise and celebrate commitment in achieving an equitable and diverse workforce that is representative of the Northern Territory community at all levels of employment.

Keynote speaking opportunities, presentations, forums and workshops

- Dr John Woinarski, Biodiversity Conservation, gave the keynote address at the Society for Conservation Biology Conference in Sydney.
- Michael Braby, Biodiversity Conservation, delivered the keynote address at the Japanese Entomological Society Conference.
- Paul Purdon, Environment, Heritage and The Arts Division, presented "Western Arnhem Fire Abatement Program" to the 12th Annual Conference of the Parliamentary Public Works and Environment Committee and "A Northern Perspective – Savanna Management" to the Garnaut Review Climate Change: Land Management, Agriculture and Forestry Workshop.

- David Williams, Senior Manager Coastal and Marine in Land and Water Division, attended the Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler's (ADCP) conference in San Diego USA and delivered an address on using ADCP to measure the physics of the Daly River Tidal Bore and the ensuing sediment transport.
- Pat Jackson, Archivist at the Northern Territory Archives Service in Alice Springs, convened the annual national conference of the Australian Society of Archivists in Alice Springs. The conference was attended by 200 archivists from around Australia and New Zealand.
- Dr Helen Larson, Curator of Fishes at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, was invited to speak at the International Symposium on the Systematics and Diversity of fishes, on the occasion of the commemoration of the 130th anniversary of the National Museum of Nature and Science in Tokyo.
- Dr Richard Willan, Senior Curator of Molluscs at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, was invited to conduct a workshop on nudibranchs at the National Sun Yat-sen University in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. This workshop involved field excursions to the Pescadores Islands, plenary lectures, lectures to post-graduate students in the science faculty, and practical classes for students in marine biology.
- Ian Lancaster, Director Water Management in Natural Resource Management Division, presented "Water in the Top End: Opportunities and Constraints" at the Charles Darwin University Symposium.
- Pam Wickham, Heritage Officer, attended the National Heritage List Forum in Melbourne to present information on the new interpretation project at Hermannsburg Heritage Precinct, which is on the National Heritage List.
- Wendy Hutchison, Manager Environmental Assessments, Environment, Heritage and the Arts Division, presented a lecture to Charles Darwin University environmental management and law students on the *NT Environmental Assessment Act* and associated processes.

Scholarships, Fellowships and PhD's

- Julie Fawcett received an Australian Library and Information Association's Associate Fellow Award.
- Joanna Barrkman, Curator of Southeast Asian Art at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, undertook the Asialink Art Residency in Java for three months.
- Adrian Mackenzie, Parks Division, received a scholarship, through the Northern Territory Government's Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment's Remote Workforce Development Strategy to gain a Certificate of Competency as a Coxswain.

Performance Reporting



Output Group: Parks and Reserves

A Park or Reserve is an area of land managed by the Parks and Wildlife Commission as a Park or Reserve for the purpose of conservation and public enjoyment. Parks and Reserves are declared under Section 12 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* or are managed as a Park or Reserve by agreement, lease or other legal instrument.

The objective of this Output Group is to manage the Northern Territory's system of 87 Parks and Reserves spread across the Territory. This involves protecting its biodiversity and creating commercial, educational and recreational opportunities for visitors and the Territory community. By achieving these functions, it provides a core for regional development and economic growth.

There are three Outputs within this Output Group:

- Parks Joint Management Programs
- Parks and Reserves Visitor Management Programs
- Parks and Reserves Conservation Management Programs.

Output: Parks Joint Management Programs

Parks Joint Management Programs establishes an equitable joint management partnership with local Traditional Owners to manage, maintain and protect the biodiversity of a Park or Reserve while at the same time serving the needs of visitors and the wider community.

| Performance Measures Output: Parks Joint Management Programs | 06-07 Actual | 07-08 Estimate | 07-08 Actual | 08-09 Estimate |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Quantity | | | | |
| Number of Joint Management Plans in force ⁽¹⁾ | 3 | 8 | 5 | 8 |
| Number of Joint Statements of Management Intent completed during the year ⁽²⁾ | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Full-time permanent staff who are Indigenous ⁽³⁾ | 12% | 15% | 10% | 16% |
| Quality | | | | |
| Jointly managed parks covered by Joint Management Plans ⁽⁴⁾ | 11% | 25% | 19% | 25% |
| Jointly managed parks covered by Joint Statements of Management Intent ⁽⁵⁾ | 9% | 6% | 19.4% | 6% |

This Output's Performance Measures were refined in 06-07, so there is no relevant historical data to compare prior to the above.

Explanatory Notes

1. There are a total of 32 jointly managed parks. *The Parks and Reserves (Framework for the Future) Act* establishes joint management for 27 parks and five parks were operating under joint management arrangements prior this legislation. The target of eight Joint Management Plans was not met this year due to delays in recruiting dedicated planning staff, the supporting resources of the land councils being less than anticipated in some circumstances and the need to first resolve policy issues relating to sacred sites clearance process and cultural information needed for planning.
2. Joint Statements of Management Intent are concise, interim statements of management direction that may be completed as a step in the process in developing Joint Management Plans. Statements of Management Intent as represented by advanced Draft Joint Management Plans include those developed for the Devils Marbles Conservation Park and Chambers Pillar Historical Reserve.
3. Nineteen employees from a total of 190 employees in the Parks Division are identified as Indigenous. Identification as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is voluntary.
4. Total area of five parks with Joint Management Plans is 536,005 Ha. This is approx 19 percent of the total area of 32 jointly managed parks at 2,808,958 Ha.
5. Total area of parks under joint management with Joint Statements of Management Intent as a percentage of total area of all parks under joint management is 19.4 percent. Parks with Statements of Management Intent have so far been relatively small landholdings.

Key Achievements in 2007-08: Parks Joint Management Programs

1. Finalised the Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve Joint Management Plan, tabled in the Legislative Assembly in May and operational in June. This is the first operational Joint Management Plan under the 2005 joint management provisions of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*. The Plan details how the joint management partnership will be implemented and the socio-economic opportunities provided for Traditional Owners.
2. Implemented the *Garig Ganuk Barlu National Park (Marine section) Plan of Management*. A monitoring program for marine fauna, including turtles and dolphins, was commenced in collaboration with Traditional Owners.
3. Completed community consultation on the draft Joint Management Plan for the Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve in accordance with the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*.
4. Held a Joint Management Forum at the Hamilton Downs Youth Camp over three days in April. Almost 100 Traditional Owners from across the Territory attended with Agency and Northern and Central Land Council staff. Traditional Owners shared joint management experiences and presented major issues for follow-up action. The Minister for Parks and Wildlife attended the final session of the forum.
5. Completed a cross-cultural biological knowledge project in Gregory National Park, the most linguistically and biologically comprehensive project undertaken with Aboriginal elders on a National Park. Language names, scientific names and common English names were prepared for plants and animals in the Park. Publication of this material will allow for improved natural resource management by the Agency, land councils and ranger groups by providing a comprehensive, accurate guide to the plants and animals in the area.
6. Promoted two Indigenous employees who had completed their traineeships into permanent ranger positions, and promoted two Indigenous rangers to the senior ranger level.

7. Employed Joint Management Planners in the Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs regions to progress the development of Joint Management Plans in the near future.
8. Employed a regional coordinator in Alice Springs to advance the Flexible Employment Program which provides casual work and training in park management programs for Traditional Owners, and builds capacity in individuals and partner Aboriginal organisations. The program supports existing and developing Aboriginal community-based ranger groups.
9. Conducted a four week flora and fauna survey in the Cape Hotham sector of the Djukbinj National Park near Darwin, to mark ten years of joint management of the Park. The survey provided additional biological information for the area which will inform planning and potential development proposals for the Park in the future. The participation by both Agency staff and Traditional Owners provided a great opportunity to share natural and cultural knowledge and values of this Park.

Challenges in 2007-08: Parks Joint Management Programs

1. Delays in the recruitment of dedicated joint management planning staff has affected the timeliness of completing Joint Management Plans.
2. Developing Joint Management Plans has been impeded by the need to first resolve policy matters such as sacred sites clearance processes and use of cultural information required for planning and management purposes.
3. Delivering a consistent level of engagement in planning, employment and capacity building with Traditional Owners across all jointly managed Parks and Reserves was difficult to achieve. Emphasis has been placed on management planning for priority Parks.
4. Establishing and strengthening inter-generational links between senior Traditional Owners and the younger generation to build awareness of the opportunities for employment and enterprise development within National Parks.

5. Progress of the Flexible Employment Program (FEP) has been disrupted due to the cessation of the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) through the Australian Government's Emergency Response into Indigenous affairs. These changes brought much uncertainty to partner CDEP organisations and imposed disincentives for many individuals to participate in FEP.
6. Business relating to the Australian Government's Emergency Response into Indigenous affairs, and Northern Territory and local government reforms, saw Traditional Owners engaging with government on a range of other priorities. This resulted in Traditional Owners being unable to attend joint management meetings.
7. Implementing the *Parks and Reserves (Frameworks for the Future) Act* has required new processes and procedures to be developed. Arrangements for granting title to Traditional Owners of 17 Parks has been very complex, involving intensive collaboration between Northern Territory Government agencies and coordination with the Australian Government.

Priorities in 2008-09: Parks Joint Management Programs

1. Finalise the transfer of title and leaseback arrangements for the Parks and Reserves affected by the *Parks and Reserves (Frameworks for the Future) Act*. This requires the preparation and handover of deeds by the Governor General to the Aboriginal Land Trusts and the simultaneous leaseback of the effected Parks and Reserves to the Northern Territory of Australia. This process has also required the lifting of Aboriginal Land and Native Title Claims and, in some cases, the declaration and revocation of parts of Parks to rationalise boundary changes.
2. Enhance capacity and governance arrangements for jointly managed national Parks and Reserves through training programs and focussed workshops for ranger staff and Traditional Owners, particularly for Parks subject to recent and current development of Joint Management Plans.
3. Ensure Joint Management Plans for the Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve and the Chambers Pillar Historical Reserve will be passed through the Legislative Assembly and operational in 2008-09.
4. Undertake public consultation on Draft Joint Management Plans for:
 - West MacDonnell National Park
 - Watarrka National Park
 - Fogg Dam Nature Park
 - Black Jungle / Lambells Lagoon Conservation Reserve
 - Harrison Dam Conservation Reserve
 - Melacca Swamp Conservation Area
 - Flora River Nature Park
5. Develop a Parks Indigenous Employment and Training Strategy in collaboration with the Northern and Central Land Councils, in accordance with the Joint Management Agreement.
6. Increase Traditional Owner participation in the Flexible Employment Program through the engagement of specialised Parks employees to arrange training, work programs, work teams and to liaise with Indigenous organisations and communities.
7. Increase the number of commercial works and service contracts relating to Parks being completed by Aboriginal businesses and / or businesses employing Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal people.
8. Assist through other government agencies the development of Aboriginal tourism enterprises on, or related to, Parks and Reserves.
9. Facilitate a second major joint management forum involving Traditional Owners from across the Northern Territory to exchange experiences, ideas and issues. This information will then be communicated to the Agency, the Central and Northern Land Councils and the Minister for Parks and Wildlife.

Output: Parks and Reserves Visitor Management Programs

This output creates commercial, educational and recreational opportunities based on sustainable use of the natural and cultural assets of the Parks estate.

| Performance Measures Output: Parks and Reserves Visitor Management Programs | 06-07 Actual | 07-08 Estimate | 07-08 Actual | 08-09 Estimate |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Quantity | | | | |
| Total visits to Territory Parks ⁽¹⁾ | 3 048 529 | 2 850 000 | 2 867 523 | 3 050 000 |
| Number of Park visitors engaged in ranger-guided interpretation activities ⁽²⁾ | 12 100 | 12 700 | 13 640 | 12 700 |
| Quality | | | | |
| Visitor satisfaction | N/A | 80% | 86.8 % | 80% |

This Output's Performance Measures were refined in 06-07, so there is no relevant historical data to compare prior to the above.

Explanatory Notes

1. Figures are derived from calibrated traffic counters, entry permits or estimates for a select range of parks with reliable visits data.
2. Territory Parks Alive figures for Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs regions.

Key Achievements in 2007-08: Parks and Reserves Visitor Management Programs

1. Completed an \$85 000 upgrade of the Palm Valley campground at Finke Gorge National Park, near Alice Springs, with improved layout of sites, installation of new gas barbeques and reticulation, and new shade structures.
2. Constructed a new visitor interpretation amphitheatre at Ormiston Gorge in the West MacDonnell National Park near Alice Springs. This facility will be used for a range of activities involving interaction between rangers, visitors and school groups.

3. Upgraded the Kings Creek Walk at Watarrka National Park, near Alice Springs, to a higher standard, by making the path wider and paving using natural rock. The path is now more stable and visitor safety has been increased.
4. Completed two new shelters and eco-friendly designed toilets on the Larapinta Trail near Alice Springs, on Section 10 near the Finke River and at the junction of Sections 2 and 3 beside Jay Creek.
5. Completed a new wet toilet block for visitors and associated landscaping at Ellery Creek Bighole in the West MacDonnell National Park near Alice Springs.
6. Completed the design for a viewing platform for the Ghost Gum Lookout at Ormiston Gorge in the West MacDonnell National Park near Alice Springs.
7. Completed upgrades to the visitor access crossings between the first and second gorges at Nitmiluk National Park, near Katherine.
8. Invested approximately \$80 000 in erosion control and stabilisation of thermal pool banks at the thermal pools in Elsey National Park, near Katherine. Works also included a section of covered walkway and new interpretation for visitors on the Little Red Flying Fox.
9. Completed visitor facilities at Channel Point Coast Reserve, near Darwin, which included a camping area and boat ramp.
10. Increased attendance of the Territory Park's Alive program of free walks and talks for park visitors, exceeding 13 000 contacts for the first time.
11. Continued community education and engagement through the Junior Ranger program, involving school children, parents and schools in environmental and park management awareness building programs.

Challenges in 2007-08: Parks and Reserves Visitor Management Programs

1. Flooding associated with Tropical Cyclone Helen in early January affected visitor access and facilities at many Top End Parks including Litchfield National Park, near Darwin.

Priorities in 2008-09: Parks and Reserves Visitor Management Programs

1. Implement stage one of the Red Centre Way Visitor Centre to enhance the experience of visitors to the West MacDonnell and Watarrka National Parks near Alice Springs, by providing first class information in a range of media. The Visitor Centre will capitalise on the sealing of the Hermannsburg – West MacDonnell Section of this road.
2. Implement stage one of upgrades to Litchfield National Park, near Darwin, visitor facilities in anticipation of increased visitor numbers and sealing of the Litchfield Park road.
3. Replace the boardwalk on the Monsoon Forest Walk at Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve, near Darwin, to maintain the wetlands and wildlife visitor experience.
4. Develop the management plan for Howard Springs Nature Park waterhole, near Darwin, and develop the aquatic wildlife viewing experience.
5. Continue improvements to the Mataranka thermal pool board-walk and pool entry, near Katherine.
6. Commence infrastructure development at Darwin's Leanyer Recreation Park, which includes a new waterslide.
7. Install two new toilets in the Tjuwaliyn (Douglas) Hot Springs Park camping area, near Katherine, to improve facilities in the Park.
8. Replace the toilet in the camping and day use area at Umbrawarra Gorge Nature Park, near Pine Creek, to improve the visitor experience.
9. Revise the existing Parks and Reserves visitor monitoring system, and develop the program to improve the quality and reliability of visitor surveys.
10. Upgrade stairway access to Berry Springs swimming facility, near Darwin.

Output: Parks and Reserves Conservation Management Programs

Protect the natural and cultural assets within the Northern Territory's Parks estate.

| Performance Measures Output: Parks and Reserves Conservation Management Programs | 06-07 Actual | 07-08 Estimate | 07-08 Actual | 08-09 Estimate |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Quantity | | | | |
| Plans of Management ⁽¹⁾ | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 |
| Management Plans or Statements of Management Intent ⁽²⁾ | 6 | 11 | 8 | 11 |
| Conservation Plans ⁽³⁾ | N/A | 261 | 261 | 261 |
| Quality | | | | |
| Park landholdings covered by authoritative plans ⁽⁴⁾ | N/A | 84% | 77.5% | 84% |
| Achieved critical actions/outputs from Conservation Plans | N/A | 85% | 78% | 85% |

This Output's Performance Measures were refined in 06-07, so there is no relevant historical data to compare prior to the above.

Explanatory Notes

- Plans of Management are authoritative, statutory documents reviewed every five years. Plans of Management are only required for Parks declared under section 12 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*.
- Management Plans or Statements of Management Intent (SMI) set out management directions according to significant values. They are prepared for land where Plans of Management are not a requirement by statute. The target of 11 Parks was not achieved as resources were invested in an all-parks values assessment that will feasibly see Management Plans and Statements of Management Intent completed for a much larger number of Parks in 2008-09. Other priorities for SMI (included in the 11 targeted) are Limmen National Park, Spirit Hills, Stray Creek Conservation Area.
- All Parks and Reserves develop annual Conservation Action Plans for weed, fire and feral animal management and are reviewed each calendar year.
- Excludes jointly managed parks. There are 29 Parks and Reserves declared under S12 (not jointly managed) with a total area of 263,819 hectares. Of these Parks 23 have operational Plans of Management covering 204,462 Ha or 77.5% of total area.

Key Achievements in 2007-08: Parks and Reserves Conservation Management Programs

- Commenced a comprehensive assessment of the natural values of the Parks estate as a basis for assessing priorities and resource allocation for the future management of Parks' wildlife values. The results will aid an organisational review of the Agency's Parks Division within the Agency in 2008-09 and assist in the development of Park profiles and Statements of Management Intent.
- Achieved the following weed control objectives;
 - Successfully implemented control programs for the major weeds Devil's claw and Noogoora burr in the Gregory National Park, near Katherine.
 - Formed a Belly-ache Bush Working Group in the Katherine region and commenced control work on this species on cattle properties in the catchment above Flora River Conservation Reserve involving local Aboriginal people.
 - Significantly reduced mimosa infestations in the Adelaide and Mary River catchments, southeast of Darwin.
- Achieved the following feral animal control objectives;
 - Assisted landholders in the Victoria River region with the removal of cattle and aerial shooting for unmusterable buffalo.
 - Completed an aerial shoot of buffalo in Nitmiluk National Park, near Katherine. Environmental benefits included protection for the rare endemic plant species *Boronia tolerans* which is vulnerable to trampling from feral animals.
 - Removed 500 cattle during a major mustering program at Limmen National Park, near Katherine, which involved local landholders and Indigenous groups.
 - Extended fencing of the southern boundary area of Litchfield National Park, near Darwin, to mitigate incursions from cattle and feral animals.

- Carried out aerial shooting programs in central Australia at Watarrka National Park (camels), Owen Springs Reserve (cattle and horses), Finke Gorge (horses) and West MacDonnell National Park (horses).
- 4. Implemented fire management programs in most Parks and Reserves for the purpose of asset protection, biodiversity protection and wildfire mitigation, with major programs being successfully undertaken in Gregory, Nitmiluk and Litchfield National Parks, and the Parks of the Mary and Adelaide Rivers district.
- 5. Commenced a marine fauna monitoring program at Garig Ganuk Barlu National Park, near Darwin, in accordance with the Park's new Plan of Management.

Challenges in 2007-08: Parks and Reserves Conservation Management Programs

1. Difficulties in recruiting to vacant ranger positions in all regions has impacted on the capacity to fully implement conservation programs.
2. Increasing operational costs, in particular those relating to fuel costs, has impacted on the capacity to fully implement conservation programs.
3. Increasing infestation levels of invasive species such as gamba and mission grass has meant greater resources are being invested in the management of these species at the expense of other conservation outcomes, including biological survey and monitoring, and weed, fire and feral animal control.
4. Compliance with new national and Northern Territory microbiological water quality guidelines for recreational water at Howard Springs Nature Park, near Darwin, has contributed to the delay in the completion of the Plan of Management for this Park.

Priorities in 2008-09: Parks and Reserves Conservation Management Programs

1. Complete the Parks values and priorities assessment project and implement major threat abatement plans on priority Parks and Reserves.
2. Complete and implement priority elements of the Agency's Parks Division's organisational review.
3. Develop and implement conservation plan standards for all Parks and Reserves.
4. Complete the Plan of Management for Howard Springs Nature Park.
5. Develop policy, guidelines and procedures for the management of recreational water bodies and the application of microbiological water quality guidelines in Northern Territory Parks and Reserves.
6. Update visitor management strategies in the Howard Springs Nature Park Plan of Management to enhance the aquatic wildlife viewing experience.

Output Group: Biological Parks

A Biological Park uses and integrates the public functions of zoos, botanic gardens and museums in order to allow the public to make connections between animals, habitats, plants, landscapes, different cultures and themselves. Biological Parks build a great range of educational and recreational outcomes through these connections and can become major tourist attractions. Biological Parks also breed threatened species as part of scientifically designed species management programs.

The Northern Territory has four Government owned Biological Parks; the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens, the Territory Wildlife Park at Berry Springs, the Window on the Wetlands Visitor Centre at Beatrice Hill and the Alice Springs Desert Park. The Territory Wildlife Park and the Alice Springs Desert Park form the Territory Wildlife Parks Government Business Division, the non commercial aspects of which are facilitated through this Output Group.

There are two Outputs within this Output Group:

- Botanic Gardens
- Visitor and Education Facilities

Output: Botanic Gardens

The George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens is a state level facility in the Northern Territory's capital city to conserve the Territory's living flora collections and provide education and enjoyment to the community. Support is also provided to the Olive Pink Botanic Gardens in Alice Springs for visitors to experience, enjoy and learn about the Territory's natural living flora.

| Performance Measures Output: Botanic Gardens | 06-07 Actual | 07-08 estimate | 07-08 Actual | 08-09 Estimate |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Quantity | | | | |
| Visitors to George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens | 202 470 | 230 000 | 221 045 ⁽¹⁾ | 240 000 |
| Special events at George Brown Botanic Gardens | 3 | 4 | 7 ⁽²⁾ | 4 |
| Functions at George Brown Botanic Gardens | 97 | 70 | 96 ⁽³⁾ | 80 |
| New significant visitor experiences created at George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens | 2 | 2 | 2 ⁽⁴⁾ | 3 |
| Subsidy to Olive Pink Botanic Gardens | \$126 000 | \$126 000 | \$126 000 | \$126 000 |
| Quality | | | | |
| User satisfaction with venue | 98% | 90% | 98% | 90% |

This Output's Performance Measures were refined in 06-07, so there is no relevant historical data to compare prior to the above.

Explanatory Notes

1. Actual figures are estimates extrapolated by daily traffic counters and periodic manual head counts and therefore inherently contain a margin of error.
2. Special events hosted included the Tropical Gardens Spectacular; Darwin Festival; Sorry Day; Replant Art Exhibit; Long Timer's afternoon tea; Siege Art Exhibit; Nightcliff Orchard Society.
3. Continued to be a popular venue for birthdays, parties, weddings, workshops, art exhibitions, corporate functions, book launches, family fun days and memorials.
4. Redeveloped Children's Garden and Orientation Centre to provide safe, comfortable, resting and sharing spaces. Rebuilt the rainforest boardwalk to complete the rainforest loop and enhance the visitor experience.

Key Achievements in 2007-08: Botanic Gardens

1. Completed the redevelopment of the Children's Garden at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens to attract more visitors and to enhance visitor, in particular children's, experience and safety. This included:
 - planting out a palm and heliconia jungle for children to explore
 - installing a sandy beach play area along the creek
 - installing a mondo grass maze
 - planting a fruit tree orchard to show children where their food comes from
 - placing soft fall matting around the tree house frame
 - building a sand pit area; and
 - fencing the entire playground area to contain children to the area.
2. Hosted major events at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens such as the Tropical Gardens Spectacular, Replant and significant parts of the Darwin Festival.
3. Removed two boardwalks and replaced one with a composite fibre and aluminium decking boardwalk, to create a circular loop trail through the rainforest area within the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens. New interpretative signage was also installed to provide information on the more significant trees and the rainforest in general.
4. Redeveloped and modernised the Orientation Centre at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens by removing old, outdated information, and opening up the space to make it more inviting to visitors. The Visitor Services Officer was relocated to the Orientation Centre. New information boards and furniture were introduced to create a comfortable resting and sharing space for visitors.

5. Completed new orientation signs and visitor maps for the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.
6. Continued to make improvements to the Geranium Street entrance of the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens by replanting garden beds to create a strong sense of arrival for visitors.
7. Commenced development of a demonstration eco-house, illustrating domestic use of rainwater collection and waste water recycling as well as permaculture opportunities on a domestic scale.
8. Commenced the redevelopment of the gardens around the George Brown House as a demonstration garden for low maintenance, but highly exotic, tropical gardens.
9. Prepared the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens Draft Development Plan 2008 – 2013 as a continuation of the Gardens' Masterplan.
10. Completed the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre Functional Design Brief.
11. Employed a temporary Manager of Education for Sustainability to create an education for sustainability strategy.

Challenges in 2007-08: Botanic Gardens

1. The impact of Tropical Cyclone Helen on the George Brown Darwin Botanic Garden's in January resulted in the entire Gardens being closed to visitors for two weeks, and the rainforest and palm grove areas remaining closed for four weeks. The closure was due to fallen trees being cleared and addressing visitor safety issues.
2. Managing ongoing tree failure and risk in the rainforest at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens due to the age of the trees and the effect of Tropical Cyclone Helen.
3. Managing antisocial activities and vandalism within the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.

Priorities in 2008-09: Botanic Gardens

1. Further develop the eco house/eco garden/wildlife garden to attract more visitors and educate them about making environmental changes in their lives.
2. Complete the redesign of planting beds at the Geranium Street entrance to create a stronger sense of arrival to the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens and to attract more visitors.
3. Replant around the Heritage Garden at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens to represent its former purpose, with plants that fascinate visitors.
4. Renovate around the Plant Display House to attract more visitors and to display the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens' potted collection.
5. Complete the Primary Loop, so that visitors can walk around all sections of the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens in a loop, with no dead-ends. This will facilitate visitor flow and enhance presentation of views and collections.
6. Continue the development of the tropical woodland at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens to increase biodiversity and introduce visitors to the plants of northern Australia.
7. Introduce a plant and seating sponsorship scheme as an initiative to raise community awareness, support and sponsorship funding for the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.
8. Continue the major upgrade of directional signage to improve visitor orientation and experience at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.

Output: Visitor and Education Facilities

This Output creates commercial and educational opportunities by providing funding to the Alice Springs Desert Park and the Territory Wildlife Park in the form of Community Service Obligations and by operating Window on the Wetlands as a visitor facility interpreting the nature and cultures of the wetlands around Adelaide River.

The Parks' roles as tourism attractions provide economic outcomes for the regions and the Territory by attracting more visitors and encouraging them to stay longer. They contribute to conservation outcomes by breeding threatened species, delivering environmental education through interpretation and education to the public and schools.

| Performance Measures Output: Visitor and Education Facilities | 05-06 Actual | 06-07 Actual | 07-08 Estimate | 07-08 Actual | 08-09 Estimate |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Quantity | | | | | |
| Visitors to Territory Wildlife Park and Alice Springs Desert Park | 156 323 | 161 660 | 156 000 | 150 149 ⁽¹⁾ | 168 000 |
| Visitors to Window on the Wetlands | 77 681 | 79 673 | 79 000 | 82 736 | 80 000 |
| Subsidy per visitor | \$50.01 | \$48.46 | \$50.74 | \$52.71 ⁽²⁾ | \$47.11 |
| Threatened species breeding programs | 9 | 9 | 10 | 7 ⁽³⁾ | 10 |
| Quality | | | | | |
| Success of threatened species programs | 80% | 100% | 80% | 80% | 80% |

Explanatory Notes

1. Decreased visitation to the Alice Springs Desert Park was due to a reduction in the number of tourists in Central Australia however the Territory Wildlife Park experienced a slight increase in visitors this year.
2. This figure is calculated by dividing the Community Service Obligation by the number of visitors to the Parks. Therefore the decrease in the number of visitors resulted in an increased subsidy per visitor.
3. Three breeding programs were not commenced due to delays in research partners' programs.

Key Achievements in 2007-08: Visitor and Education Facilities

1. Attained 100 per cent Indigenous employment at Window on the Wetlands, in line with Traditional Owners' aspirations for future joint management of the facility.
2. Signed an agreement with the Limilgnan-Wulna (Land Holding) Aboriginal Corporation, Traditional Owners of Ludawei (Window on the Wetlands), committing support for employment, training and business and sustainable economic opportunities. This was a step towards realising future aspirations for joint management arrangements for Window on the Wetlands.
3. Commenced guided night walks at the Alice Springs Desert Park and Territory Wildlife Park, and guided morning bird walks at the Alice Springs Desert Park to diversify the experiences available to visitors, increase the use of the Parks outside standard opening hours and extend visitors' length of stay in the regions.
4. Completed learning tools on the Alice Springs Desert Park's website for teachers in the Northern Territory, South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales to plan curriculum-linked units of work that allow visiting schools to plan their own natural and cultural central Australian experiences.
5. Fulfilled commitments to the national recovery plans for the *Macrotis lagotis* (greater bilby), *Zyomys pedunculatus* (central rock rat), and *Zyomys palatilis* (Carpentaria rock rat). The Territory Wildlife Park continued to breed *Dasyurus halluctus* (northern quoll) to maintain a viable genetic population as a safeguard against wild extinction, and established a *Diplodactylus occultus* (yellow snouted gecko) breeding program. The Alice Springs Desert Park achieved breeding success with *Lagorchestes hirsuitis* (mala) and *Dasyurus geoffroyi* (western quolls).

6. Discovered two new wild populations of rare plant species: *Eremophila maculata var brevifolia* and *Acacia tenuior*. Collected *Olearia arida* (off-park) for the first time since 1873 and achieved its subsequent successful propagation, in conjunction with the Northern Territory Herbarium (on-park).
7. Achieved breeding success with the woma python, Lake Eyre dragon, kultarr, black-faced wood swallow and Australasian grebe at the Alice Springs Desert Park.
8. Hosted 5 647 Territory school students free of charge at the Alice Springs Desert Park and the Territory Wildlife Park.
9. Sold 7 001 Territorian annual passes (unlimited yearly park access for the price of one admission fee) at the Alice Springs Desert Park and the Territory Wildlife Park.
10. Hosted 286 students for educational programs at Camp Calytrix, an on-site overnight camping facility for school groups at the Territory Wildlife Park.
11. Continued and developed the Adopt a School partnership with Yipirinya School at the Alice Springs Desert Park for students to experience career options, develop employability skills and build self esteem.
12. Continued operation of Window on the Wetlands as a free entry facility.
13. Contributed to the *Moving Alice Ahead* projects by;
 - Hosting two Indigenous art night markets in partnership with DesArt that attracted 1657 visitors and \$55 000 in sales to the art centres (Indigenous Arts and Culture).
 - Establishing a research project with Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre about the Indigenous employment program at the Alice Springs Desert Park, and using a Specialist Guide (Cross Cultural) to assist Tourism NT with its Indigenous guide training (Workforce Development).
 - Continuing work with the Department of the Chief Minister and Tourism NT on the development of the Red Centre Way strategy.
14. Hosted the Australasian Zoological Parks and Aquaria Taxon Advisory Group for Native Species meetings, and the Threatened Species Network workshops at the Alice Springs Desert Park. All these professional bodies are involved in the management and breeding of endangered species.
15. Continued husbandry and training of a wedge-tailed eagle mascot for the Second Cavalry and a peregrine falcon for the First Aviation Regiment.
16. Continued four Zookeeping Apprentices (two at Alice Springs Desert Park and two at Territory Wildlife Park), one horticulture apprentice at the Desert Park, and one Conservation and Land Management school-based apprentice at Window on the Wetlands. These initiatives saw five Indigenous employment opportunities generated.
17. Continued participation in the Kew Gardens England Millennium Seed Bank Project for long term seed conservation.
18. Continued to provide substantial technical and physical assistance with the development of the Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre bush tomato plantation.
19. Received the 2008 Australasian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria Research Award for the red-tailed phascogale research program at the Alice Springs Desert Park. The research project aimed to identify the most successful release strategy for captive born animals, including investigating optimum age for release, as well as the most appropriate breeding regime and reproductive strategy for this threatened species.

Challenges in 2007-08: Visitor and Education Facilities

1. The effects of Tropical Cyclone Helen closed the Territory Wildlife Park for three days in January while staff and volunteers removed debris and ensured pathways were safe for visitors. This resulted in significant changes/delays to planned works programs, and also impacted on visitation during this period.
2. Evolving the Parks in line with changing market trends and customer needs, and integrating planning and activities with regional and community aspirations and developments.
3. Operating as tourism operators in highly seasonal and volatile business environments.

Priorities in 2008-09: Visitor and Education Facilities

1. Partner with nature based film festivals using new cinema technology and outdoor screening at the Alice Springs Desert Park theatre facility. This will contribute to the Moving Alice Ahead Indigenous Arts and Culture project and provide strategic links with the Araluen Arts Centre.
2. Implement a Voluntourism Program (combining vacation travel with volunteering at the destination visited) to attract 18 to 30 year olds travelling on working holiday visas to the Alice Springs Desert Park. Programs will provide opportunities for participants to discover the extraordinary landscape of Central Australia and the Top End, while contributing to scientific research and biodiversity conservation.
3. Diversify the current range of tours and increase the guided spotlight night walks and guided morning bird walks to increase revenue and use of the Territory Wildlife Park and Alice Springs Desert Park outside standard opening hours.
4. Complete the Master Planning process and develop an integrated visitor experience plan at the Alice Springs Desert Park.

5. Continue development of partnerships with like-minded organisations to develop initiatives such as a culture garden at the Alice Springs Desert Park.
6. Further develop educational programs at the Alice Springs Desert Park and Territory Wildlife Park, and include activities supporting education for sustainability (recycling, energy efficiency, environmental monitoring) into all aspects of the Parks' operations.

Output Group: Natural Resources

Natural Resources refers to the Territory's unique natural assets and encompasses land, vegetation, biodiversity and water.

It is the Territory's largely pristine and natural environment that provides a key foundation to the Territory's unique identity.

The objective of this Output Group is to assess, manage and conserve the natural resources of the Northern Territory. This is achieved by providing integrated support, advisory, monitoring and regulatory services in respect of the Territory's natural resources and the mitigation of potential threats, including erosion, weeds, bushfires, floods and feral animals, with the involvement of the community and land managers.

The Output Group provides central mechanisms for sustainable use of the renewable natural resources of the Northern Territory.

There are four Outputs within this Output Group:

- Natural Resource Assessment
- Natural Resource Management Activities
- Water Resources
- Flood Forecasting

Output: Natural Resource Assessment

This Output formulates and implements assessment programs, including monitoring and evaluation, with respect to land, coastlines, native vegetation and biological diversity.

| Performance Measures Output: Natural Resource Assessment | 05-06 Actual | 06-07 Actual | 07-08 Estimate | 07-08 Actual | 08-09 Estimate |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Quantity | | | | | |
| Strategic assessment programs ⁽¹⁾ | 22 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Quality | | | | | |
| Stakeholder satisfaction | N/A | 90% | 90% | 92.5% | 90% |
| Timeliness | | | | | |
| Assessment project milestones met | 85% | 87% | 88% | 90% | 88% |

Explanatory notes

1. Strategic assessment programs include;
 - Biodiversity inventory, policy and planning
 - Coastlines (Darwin Harbour, Daly Estuary and Nhulunbuy)
 - Land Capability and Vegetation (Victoria River District/Bullo River, Daly region, Darwin region, Central Australian Horticulture, Northern Territory Vegetation Mapping and Northern Territory Digitisation Project)

Key Achievements in 2007-08: Natural Resource Assessment

Biodiversity Inventory, Policy and Planning

1. Published the book, *Lost from our landscape: threatened species of the Northern Territory*, which was a comprehensive review of species on the Northern Territory Threatened Species List. The book's aim was to raise the profile of conservation issues and provide information and advice to landholders and the community.
2. Provided an assessment of the biodiversity conservation values of all Northern Territory national parks and the conservation reserve system as a whole. This information will be used for a comprehensive review of the Agency's Parks Division and will contribute to prioritisation of park management resources.
3. Established biodiversity monitoring plots in Darwin region parks, completed a strategic review of biodiversity monitoring programs, and re-instituted a systematic biodiversity monitoring program in Kakadu National Park.
4. Completed a project that rated threats to biodiversity in relation to their impact and controllability across the whole of the Northern Territory. This study found that land clearing, fire regimes, weeds and some feral animals had the greatest impacts on biodiversity, and also identified which feral animals and weed species should be highest priority for management responses.
5. Collaborated with state and federal government agencies to complete the second Australian biodiversity audit, and progress the second Biodiversity Strategy for Australia.
6. Completed, in collaboration with Indigenous landowners and rangers, a five year program translocating northern quolls to islands off north-eastern Arnhem Land. This was a conservation response to the threat of cane toads and resulted in the quoll population increasing from the original 64 founders to more than 5600 individuals.
7. Undertook a translocation of the threatened golden bandicoot to Guluwuru Island (Wessel Islands), in collaboration with Indigenous landowners and rangers, to provide greater conservation security from its current range in the Northern Territory of only one island (Marchinbar Island).
8. Undertook major projects in association with Indigenous ranger groups that investigated the status and management of many Territory threatened species, including;
 - a large set of Tiwi Island plants;
 - stone country Boronia plants (western Arnhem Land and Nitmiluk);
 - northern hopping-mouse (Groote Eylandt);
 - Butler's dunnart (Tiwi Islands)
 - marsupial mole (central Australia);
 - Slater's skink (central Australia);
 - a range of central Australian plants
 - land snails (Victoria River District and Cobourg Peninsula); and
 - northern shrike-tit (Katherine area).
9. Completed a Top End wide survey of Indigenous knowledge of mammal decline in the Top End, using a comprehensive set of stuffed mammals as prompts in a series of informal discussions with elder Aboriginal people on country across the Top End.
10. Completed national recovery plans for the northern quoll, Gove crow butterfly, Tiwi plants, Boronia plants, central Australian acacias, daisies and other plants.
11. Conducted sea turtle research and monitoring with three Indigenous communities (Tiwi Islands, Borroloola and Groote Eylandt).
12. Completed projects on the ecology and management of two iconic Territory bird species; the Australian bustard (Northern Territory wide) and the flock bronzewing pigeon (Barkly Tablelands).

13. Undertook a major review of the status of feral camels in central Australia which included attitudes of stakeholders, environmental costs and options for management.
14. Completed major programs that documented the responses of biodiversity to pastoralism (Pigeon Hole project, Victoria River District), in collaboration with the pastoral industry; and major programs that examined the links between pastoral land condition measures and biodiversity. These programs have helped to; inform pastoralists about the way they manage pastoral activities and its impact on biodiversity; educate on balancing biodiversity and grazing outcomes; and how environmental sustainability can best be achieved on pastoral lands.
15. Completed research for a study of the responses of biodiversity to clearing and habitat fragmentation in the Daly region. This study identified the native plant and animal species that are most disadvantaged by intensification of development, and the landscape configurations that were best suited for balancing biodiversity and development pressures.
16. Completed a study of the dynamics of eucalypt forests in the northern half of the Northern Territory, including assessment of the availability of tree hollows (a critical resource for biodiversity), responses to cyclone, and regrowth characteristics.
17. Completed major reviews of the impacts of fire on biodiversity in the Top End and of the responses of biodiversity following mining in Gove, north east Arnhem Land.
18. Completed a project assessing vegetation retention options in the Darwin, Murrumbidgee and Katherine/Mataranka regions.
19. Worked on a project with Charles Darwin University for the Government of Timor Leste (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) to build capacity and work collaboratively on three marine projects;
 - establishing Timor's first Marine Park;
 - marine habitat mapping; and
 - developing a coastal and marine ecotourism strategy for Timor Leste.
20. Completed the report *Marine biodiversity survey of seagrasses and inshore soft bottom habitats of the South East Van Diemen Gulf and North West Arnhem Land between the Goulburn Islands and Castlereagh Bay, Northern Territory*. This work, funded by the Australian Government, was in collaboration with Aboriginal Sea Ranger Groups and Traditional Owners. The report filled important information gaps and established a foundation for future work with Aboriginal coastal communities.
21. Initiated a major project that will assess the status and ecology of coastal dolphins in Northern Territory waters including the snubfin and irrawaddy dolphin.
22. Completed a major review of the marine biodiversity of Melville Bay and adjacent coastline of the Dhimurru Indigenous Protected Area, with support from industry partner Rio Tinto Alcan, as part of the Northern Territory Marine Biodiversity Mapping and Survey Program
23. Completed a comprehensive sampling program for the biodiversity of Garig Gunak Barlu National Park.

Coastlines

1. Completed an Acid Sulfate Soil Investigation of Darwin Harbour to assist land use planners and developers understand where land at risk of acid production occurs, and ensure appropriate management is applied to avoid major environmental damage.
2. Provided water velocity survey data of Darwin Harbour to the Australian Maritime College to assist with the modelling of safe berthing and operation of Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) tankers at Darwin's LNG plant.
3. Provided information on dredge plume behaviour from the dredging of the Cullen Bay outer marina and selected the most effective disposal area.
4. Developed acoustic techniques to measure bedload transport in the Daly River and commenced the development of a bedload transport model. This model will be used to evaluate the impact to river pool habitats of changed flow regimes and land use.
5. Worked collaboratively with Charles Darwin University, the Australian Institute of Marine Science and Rio Tinto Alcan to develop a hydrodynamic and water quality model of Melville Bay, Nhulunbuy. The model will be used to evaluate the impact of trade waste discharges and to assist Rio Tinto Alcan develop marine water management plans.

Land Capability and Vegetation

1. Increased soil condition monitoring in the Daly Basin with the final report on the monitoring trial submitted to the National Land and Water Resources Audit.
2. Promoted the importance of erosion and sediment control on development sites through the media, at field days and on the Agency's website. This led to an increase in the number of developers approaching the Agency seeking advice prior to submitting development applications, and has resulted in greater technical consistency in applications.

Challenges in 2007-08: Natural Resource Assessment**Biodiversity Inventory, Policy and Planning**

1. Identifying the relative contribution of different threatening factors to the decline of mammals across northern Australia, and instituting appropriate management responses.
2. Identifying appropriate biodiversity monitoring programs that can measure management performance on reserves and in relation to payments for environmental services.
3. Establishing effective education programs to build community awareness of the need to understand, monitor, protect and conserve coastal, estuarine and marine environments.
4. Building strong working relationships with Indigenous sea ranger groups through strategic development of collaborative Commonwealth funding arrangements for coastal, marine and estuarine projects, and through training and involvement of sea rangers in sea country programs

Coastlines

1. Increasing need for assessing numerous urban and industrial development projects has reduced the capacity to integrate beach monitoring into annual assessment programs. Beach monitoring enhances understanding of coastal processes.

Land Capability and Vegetation

1. Developing strategic partnerships to deliver outcomes on the impacts on estuarine systems from industrial development, land use change and change in river flow regimes.
2. Ensuring land and water data was in a usable digital format so it could be available on the Agency's website via [NRETA Maps](#).

Priorities in 2008-09: Natural Resource Assessment***Biodiversity Inventory, Policy and Planning***

1. Identify the impacts and susceptibilities of marine and terrestrial biodiversity to climate change, and develop appropriate monitoring, adaptation and management responses.
2. Consolidate and enhance a systematic terrestrial and marine biodiversity monitoring and reporting program.
3. Further develop a strategic, risk-assessment based approach to evaluating the impact of development proposals on marine and terrestrial biodiversity.
4. Consolidate and enhance collaborative relationships with Indigenous ranger groups for terrestrial and marine biodiversity survey, monitoring and management.
5. Complete a Northern Territory Marine Protected Areas Strategy and a Northern Territory Marine Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.
6. Complete a pilot marine biodiversity survey and assessment of the coastal and marine ecosystems of north east Arnhem Land as part of the Northern Territory Marine Biodiversity Mapping and Survey Program.
7. Undertake a major experimental study of the responses of biodiversity to land clearing in the Daly area.
8. Develop a conservation plan for the Daly region, working with the Daly River Management Advisory Committee and other stakeholders.
9. Develop a biodiversity strategy for the Northern Territory.

Coastlines

1. Develop an evidence-based policy for environmental flows for Northern Territory estuaries.
2. Quantify the impacts of dredge spoil disposal and prepare dredge disposal area guidelines.

Land Capability and Vegetation

1. Continue the extension of soil condition monitoring to priority areas across the Northern Territory.
2. Improve data capture across the Agency to ensure all land and water data is available and secure in a corporate database, and readily available for clients. Improve the database for research/ collections and archives to allow for more efficient data entry and the automatic update of information to NRETA Maps.
3. Further develop [NRETA Maps](#) via population of water, soil and vegetation databases.
4. Contribute to the management of climate change through soil carbon information and water resource impacts.
5. Complete and publish Sediment and Erosion Control Guidelines for Broadacre Clearing and Rehabilitation.

Output: Natural Resource Management Activities

Natural Resource Management Activities identify and mitigate risks to, and associated with, natural resources, including risks surrounding the management of biodiversity, bushfires, weeds, native vegetation and soil conservation.

| Performance Measures Output: Natural Resource Management Activities | 05-06 Actual | 06-07 Actual | 07-08 Estimate | 07-08 Actual | 08-09 Estimate |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Quantity | | | | | |
| Strategic programs ⁽¹⁾ | 22 | 22 | 19 | 19 | 19 |
| Territory expenditure as a proportion of total dollars committed | 72% | 78% | 55% | 58% | 69% |
| Area of wildfire compared with controlled burns | 0:8:1 | 4.7:1 | 3:1:1 | 5.5:11 ⁽²⁾ | 2:8:1 |
| Quality | | | | | |
| Programs meeting agreed targets | 73% | 73% | 80% | 79% ⁽³⁾ | 80% |
| Timeliness | | | | | |
| Project milestones met | 73% | 90% | 80% | 80% | 80% |

Explanatory Notes

- Strategic programs included;
 - Biodiversity Management
 - Rangeland Management
 - Weed Management
 - Fire Management
- The relatively high ratio of wildfires to controlled burns reflects an exceptional fire season with the highest number of fire ban days on record (39) and a near record area of the Northern Territory burnt (242 000km²).
- Unseasonal conditions, such as winter rainfall in the Victoria River District, Barkly and southern Alice Springs regions, prevented access and re-assessment of some sites for the Rangeland Monitoring Program.

Key Achievements in 2007-08: Natural Resource Management Activities

Biodiversity Management

- Completed the Desert Fire project which lays the foundation for improving fire management outcomes across central Australia. This project documented the scale of uncontrolled wildfires in the Tanami Desert which threaten biodiversity, and is the first step in developing a collaborative fire management plan for the region. Consultations were conducted with pastoral and Aboriginal stakeholders in the Tanami to discuss issues related to the development of a fire management strategy.
- Coordinated a large-scale strategic feral animal management program in the Katherine region in partnership with the Indigenous Land Corporation, Natural Resource Management Board Inc. and Aboriginal Benefits Account.
- Contributed to the safety of Darwin and Katherine residents by removing almost 300 crocodiles from the relevant harbours and rivers through a trapping program.
- Initiated or contributed to eight investigations in the Darwin region for illegal possession or trade in protected wildlife under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*, with one conviction, one police case pending and four investigations currently in process.
- Developed an inter-departmental Territory-wide approach to reporting wildlife incidences in our seas and rivers.
- Completed a draft Magpie Goose Management Plan to be released for public comment in 2008-09.

7. Developed a whole-of-government process to use 1080 poison to control pest animals. This involved working with the Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Mines, non government organisations, and the local community. The program aims to conserve populations of wild dingoes while also enabling pastoralists to protect their stock from feral dog predation.
8. Assessed the viability of a kangaroo harvest industry in the Northern Territory which showed kangaroo populations were too low to support a broad scale kangaroo harvest industry.
9. Continued to monitor and remove, where necessary, stray feral pigeons, which cause a nuisance and can spread disease, to keep Darwin and Alice Springs free of feral birds.
10. Completed a review of the management program for freshwater crocodiles which indicated there is currently minimal commercial interest in harvesting this species.
11. Undertook survey work to clarify the distribution of threatened plants and animals south east of Alice Springs.
12. Initiated a vegetation mapping program for the Finke bioregion to enable pastoralists and other landholders to make better informed management decisions.
13. Protected Northern Territory flora through seed collection activities associated with the Millennium Seedbank project. This is an international project with Kew Gardens in Britain, which provides a bank of seed material which can be used to propagate species in the event of a catastrophic decline due to global warming or other reasons.

Rangeland Management

1. Worked with state and federal agencies to develop the National 2007 Australian Collaborative Rangelands Information System (ACRIS) Rangeland Condition Report. The Report contains the first comprehensive analysis of the condition of Australian rangelands. Information for the Territory came from the Agency's Tier 1 Monitoring database.

Weed Management

1. Contained the spread of cabomba in the Darwin River, with a limited number of seedlings and juvenile plants found during the year. Since 2006 no new plants have been identified in three of the four infestation sites.
2. Adopted the Northern Territory Weed Risk Management System as a tool to identify the weed risk of plants and to inform decision making on the nomination of species for declaration.
3. Protected the Top End wetlands from the infestation and establishment of *Mimosa pigra* by facilitating active control by Aboriginal ranger groups and undertaking surveys.
4. Worked towards the eradication of *Prickly acacia* and *Mesquite* in the Northern Territory through the implementation of eradication programs across all known areas of infestation in conjunction with landholders and Aboriginal ranger groups.
5. Continued to implement the Katherine Regional Weed Management Strategy and Action Plan 2005-2010 in conjunction with the Katherine Regional Weed Advisory Committee and stakeholders.

Fire Management

1. Coordinated wildfire suppression at numerous fires in the Top End and as far south as Tennant Creek. During major fires at Acacia Hills and Rum Jungle fire suppression efforts saved a large number of houses, orchards and livestock without incurring major injuries. The Agency also coordinated the use of water bombing activities in the Humpty Doo and Howard Springs area, protecting houses and schools.

2. Contributed to the ongoing success of the West Arnhem Fire Management Agreement which included the abatement of more than 80 000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions above the target. The Agency also assisted in wildfire suppression in the region with marked success. This is notable as there is no history of wildfire suppression in Arnhem Land and techniques and logistics are emerging with every incident.
3. Developed two new nationally accredited fire fighter training courses in partnership with the South Australian Country Fire Service. One was designed for rural and remote communities and has been taken up by South Australia.

Challenges in 2007-08: Natural Resource Management Activities

Biodiversity Management

1. Developing an across-agency approach to the management and use of 1080 poison for controlling pest animal species. This required agreement and changes to two separate legislative acts to ensure they complemented each other.

Rangeland Management

1. Challenges with the implementation of revised Rangeland Monitoring Field Data Collection Methodology across the whole of the Northern Territory. This was due to the need for consistently high data quality and ongoing staff training and requirements for redesign of major databases with comparative review of old data.

Weed Management

1. Developing a Weed Risk Management system which required careful consideration, and adaptation, of technical issues to the Territory context to assess the degree of threat posed by various weeds and management options.
2. Assisting in the development of a model for the national categorisation of weeds to provide a more uniform national approach to weed declaration.

Fire Management

1. An intense late wet season resulted in a large amount of fuel growth and the rapid onset of the dry restricted the controlled burning season. A record period of intense fire weather led to fires burning over 40 per cent more of the Territory than an average year.

Priorities in 2008-09: Natural Resource Management Activities

Biodiversity Management

1. Finalise the review into the crocodile harvest with industry, Aboriginal groups and the Australian Government, and implement the outcomes to ensure the continued sustainability of the industry.
2. Work with the Australian Government and consult with Indigenous groups and other stakeholders to increase the number of crocodile eggs allowed to be harvested under the management plan.
3. Continue monitoring the harvest of wildlife, including saltwater and freshwater crocodiles, and the audit of crocodile farms to ensure their sustainability.
4. Finalise and implement the freshwater crocodile management program.
5. Develop a national approach, in collaboration with the Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre, for the management of feral camels in arid Australia.

6. Undertake public consultation on the Draft Management Program for the Magpie Goose in the Northern Territory, 2008-2013 and implement the program.
7. Work with hunters, industry groups and firearms trainers to promote the use of non-toxic shot for waterfowl hunting.
8. Establish the Care and Rehabilitation of Wildlife Foundation to coordinate the community care of injured and orphaned wildlife.
9. Develop management plans for major vertebrate pests such as camels, pigs, horses and cane toads.
10. Develop an integrated management plan for key weeds and feral vertebrates in the wetlands of the Top End.
11. Achieve accreditation of the training programs for aerial platform shooting and 1080 management and use.

Rangeland Management

1. Investigate and develop methods to monitor and report on the effects of climate change on the rangelands of the Northern Territory.
2. Formalise the Rangeland Monitoring Program through integration of satellite and ground-based programs to develop one complimentary land condition monitoring program.
3. Review rangeland monitoring field data collection methods to ensure its scientifically robust and can provide a basis for monitoring biodiversity, and the potential impact of climate change on land condition and biodiversity.
4. Review analysis methods of field data to investigate the potential use of the data to monitor the effects of climate change on rangeland condition, and to ensure the Agency is able to provide a robust land condition report on the Territory's rangelands.
5. Develop, update and maintain a land clearing database for all land types and tenures across the Territory.

Weed Management

1. Establish the Northern Territory Weed Advisory Committee and Regional Weed Reference Groups to provide advice on weed management issues.
2. Establish a Weed Risk Assessment Group to replace the Weed Risk Assessment Reference and Technical Groups to undertake new weed risk assessments under the Weed Risk Management System.
3. Review the Northern Territory Weed Management Strategy to complement the Australian Weed Strategy and ensure national objectives are incorporated in a manner appropriate to the Territory's environmental, social and economic context.
4. Continue to manage the Cabomba Eradication Program and maintain a quarantine zone in the Darwin River.
5. Develop compliance and monitoring programs under the *Northern Territory Weeds Management Act 2001*.
6. Develop a rapid response capability to target new weed incursions.
7. Develop Weed Management Plans, in conjunction with stakeholders, for high priority weed species such as bellyache bush, mesquite, prickly acacia and mimosa

Fire Management

1. Implement improvements in fire safety procedures to ensure all volunteer fire fighters and Agency employees have the best possible capacity to fight fires safely and efficiently.
2. Develop fire management greenhouse gas abatement projects in partnership with Indigenous organisations and external funding bodies.

Output: Water Resources

Measure, assess and manage the surface and groundwater resources of the Northern Territory and undertake drilling and bore testing to enable effective planning for allocation, use, control and protection of water resources.

| Performance Measures Output: Water Resources | 06-07 Actual | 07-08 Estimate | 07-08 Actual | 08-09 Estimate |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Quantity | | | | |
| Gauging stations ⁽¹⁾ | 200 | 200 | 197 | 205 |
| Operational rig days | 224 | 100 | 200 ⁽²⁾ | 150 |
| Water allocation plans declared | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Licences and permits issued | 210 | 230 | 224 | 300 |
| Quality | | | | |
| Time series data collected at agreed standards | 65% | 70% | 78% | 75% |
| Proportion of unscheduled maintenance of drilling rigs | 1% | 5% | 2% ⁽³⁾ or 4 days | 5% |
| Number of non-permitted activities | 0 | 5 | 4 | 10 |
| Timeliness | | | | |
| Services delivered within agreed timeframes | 90% | 90% | 90% | 90% |

This Output's Performance Measures were refined in 06-07, so there is no relevant historical data to compare prior to the above.

Explanatory Notes

- Gauging stations include rainfall recorders
- The increase in operational rig days was due to unexpected projects from the Power and Water Corporation including Santa Teresa (30 days), Gulf Region (14 days), Tomato Island (14 days), Darwin City Council (14 days) and Urapunga (14 days).
- The lower than expected proportion of unscheduled maintenance of drilling rigs was due to a well planned and timed maintenance program.

Key Achievements in 2007-08: Water Resources

- Declared the Alice Springs Water Resource Strategy 2006-2015 as a Water Allocation Plan in 2007.
- Developed and released for public comment the Tindall Limestone Aquifer, (Katherine) draft Water Allocation Plan. The draft Plan was developed in partnership with the Katherine community primarily through the Katherine Water Advisory Committee and the Daly River Management Advisory Committee. Significant assessment was undertaken on hydrology, ecology and cultural aspects of the planning process.
- Conducted the five-yearly review of the Ti Tree Water Resource Strategy in partnership with the regional community, through the Ti Tree Water Advisory Committee. The review involved evaluation of the Plan's performance indicators and monitoring data.
- Completed investigative drilling for the Eastern Gulf Water Study.
- Completed investigative drilling at;
 - Ali-Curung (north of Alice Springs)
 - Singleton (north of Alice Springs)
 - Katherine
 - Howard East
 - Mataranka (south of Katherine)
 - Philip Creek (north of Ti Tree); and
 - Darwin area
- Ensured the hydrographic network was fully operational prior to the 2007-08 Wet Season. This was despite the unavailability of NextG hardware to replace CDMA modems prior to the initially advertised switch from the CDMA mobile network to NextG.

7. Obtained \$700 000 in external funding from the Bureau of Meteorology for upgrading and telemetering 60 gauging stations. This will allow the remainder of the Northern Territory river gauging network to be telemetered.
8. Investigated and drilled new town water supply for Ngukurr (south east Arnhem Land), Urapunga (south east of Katherine) and Santa Teresa (south east of Alice Springs) for the Power and Water Corporation.
9. Decommissioned and replaced a polluted bore for the Borroloola Sports Club.
10. Provided water supply for Tomato Island (Borroloola) camp ground for the Agency's Parks and Wildlife Service.
11. Expanded the Hydrographic staff from 17 to 19 during a period of severe skill shortages in the area of water resource staff.
12. Relocated flood warning telemetry and data collection infrastructure from the Goyder Centre in Palmerston to the Chan Building in Darwin to ensure continued operation in the event of a major natural disaster.
13. Increased regulation through thorough inspections associated with the issue of licences and permits.
14. Tested high yield bores for pumping capacity in the Katherine region due to private companies inability to test high yield bores.
15. Purchased components for the deployment of six new gauging stations funded by the National Water Initiative Water Smart program, to enhance the understanding of ground water and surface water relationships in the Katherine Daly Basin.
16. Completed extensive gauging exercises at key locations upstream of Nauiyu in the Daly River, resulting in the capture of flow data previously unobtainable.

Challenges in 2007-08: Water Resources

1. Lack of commercially available instrumentation suitable for the NextG network prior to the Wet Season prevented suitable testing, deployment and training of staff prior to the CDMA / NextG switchover. Alternative arrangements for data transmission were implemented
2. Ability to attract, develop and retain professional and technical personnel with skills in the areas of drilling, water allocation planning, hydrology, hydrogeology and hydrography due to national occupational shortages and competitive job market influenced by the resource sector.

Priorities in 2008-09: Water Resources

1. Declare a [Water Allocation Plan for the Tindall Limestone Aquifer, Katherine](#).
2. Develop Water Allocation Plans in Mataranka, Daly, Darwin Rural and Western Davenports.
3. Issue Water Extraction Licences resulting from the declaration of water allocation plans.
4. Increase the level of compliance related to the [Northern Territory Water Act](#) by moving from a focus on extension to one of regulation and extension.
5. Complete stage one of the [Northern Territory Water Act](#) review and commencement of the amended Act and Regulations.
6. Trial new Indigenous engagement methods in partnership with the Indigenous Water Policy Group.
7. Continue the joint Agency/National Water Commission drilling programs for the Gulf, Daly and central Australian regions .
8. Investigative drilling and provision of water supply for Miniyeri (south of Katherine) and Galiwinku (Elcho Island).

9. Contribute to inputs under the National Water Initiative, which will require improved assessment, understanding, management and allocation of the Northern Territory's surface water and groundwater resources.
10. Complete the major operational stages of National Water Initiative funded projects in the Gulf, Daly and Darwin regions, including investigative drilling programs and the establishment of several new gauging stations.
11. Continue partnerships with the Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge and Land and Water Australia programs to improve assessment and understanding of the Northern Territory's water resources.
12. Develop and implement a strategy to attract, develop and retain professional and technical personnel with skills in the areas of water allocation planning, hydrology, hydrogeology and hydrography.
13. Deploy new instrumentation (water level, condition sensing and logging systems) and data modems purchased with funding received from the Bureau of Meteorology initiative.
14. Ensure drilling and bore testing function remains aligned with Northern Territory Government requirements including water supply developments.

Output: Flood Forecasting

The Agency provides a flood forecasting service to provide up to date advice to Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services, the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and the Bureau of Meteorology to minimise risk to life and property in the event of flooding.

Flood forecasting is done on the basis of using measured rainfall and river heights (including Bureau of Meteorology information) in a catchment. Using real time data, which is relayed electronically to the Department's flood forecasters, and knowing river characteristics, the height likely to be reached at certain points (such as towns or bridge crossings) can be estimated.

| Performance Measures Output: Flood Forecasting | 05-06 Actual | 06-07 Actual | 07-08 Estimate | 07-08 Actual | 08-09 Estimate |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Quantity | | | | | |
| Installations ⁽¹⁾ | 23 | 26 | 36 | 36 ⁽²⁾ | 39 |
| Quality | | | | | |
| Reliability of equipment ⁽³⁾ | 85% | 85% | 85% | 90% ⁽⁴⁾ | 90% |
| Timeliness | | | | | |
| Services delivered within agreed timeframes | 95% | 95% | 95% | 95% | 95% |

Explanatory Notes

1. Installations include two types – river height and rainfall recorder, as well as stand alone rainfall recorder
2. The table provides a cumulative sum and not the installations for this particular year.
3. This includes the reliability of retrieved data as well as equipment.
4. Reliability of retrieved data has increased due to better telemetry equipment as well as increased redundancies.

Key Achievements in 2007-08: Flood Forecasting

1. Published Katherine Flood Warning Maps for Category 1, 2 and 3 on the Agency's and Northern Territory Emergency Services' internet site, for use as a flood warning tool that indicates the potential severity of the flood events.
2. Upgraded four existing gauging stations at Douglas River, Flora River, Adelaide River at Arnhem Highway and McArthur River at Borroloola to allow retrieval of river height data in real time.
3. Installed a new rainfall station and reconstructed the Wigley Gorge Gauge station in the Todd River catchment at Alice Springs, to improve the Todd River flood monitoring system.
4. Upgraded the telemetry of rainfall and river data at all flood monitoring sites, improving the reliability of data retrieval on real time.
5. Installed an additional data collector at Wigley Gorge, Anzac Oval and Charles River in the Todd River catchment, improving the reliability of data availability on real time.
6. Upgraded the Todd River Flood Forecast Model to improve the efficiency of the model's usage.
7. Issued 155 flood forecast advices in a year with a slightly above average Wet Season rainfall, which included one major flood event in the Daly Catchment. Number of flood forecast advices issued for various catchments was as follows:
 - Katherine Rural Area 9
 - Daly Catchment 82
 - Upper Roper Catchment 46
 - Victoria catchment 18

Challenges in 2007-08: Flood Forecasting

1. Prediction of accurate flood heights in advance for the Nauiyu (Daly River) and Yarralin (south west of Katherine) communities remains a challenge because of a lack of representative data, complexity of catchment and accuracy of model utilised.
2. Accurate and timely flood prediction in the Daly, Victoria, upper Roper, lower Adelaide and McArthur River catchments can be difficult due to the small number of flood monitoring sites.

Priorities in 2008-09: Flood Forecasting

1. Revise the Service Level Agreement between the Agency and the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services to ensure flood forecasting meets its requirements.
2. Install new gauging stations and upgrade existing gauging stations to collect vital data and improve the accuracy of flood predictions.
3. Upgrade the existing flood forecasting models to incorporate new information.
4. Install new and upgrade existing monitoring sites in the Daly River, McArthur River and upper Roper River catchments to deliver maximum improvements to the Territory's flood monitoring system.
5. Modify and run the Adelaide and Daly River flood forecast models to check the prediction reliability.
6. Develop and run the McArthur River flood forecast model to check the prediction reliability.
7. Upgrade the Todd River flood forecast model to incorporate redundant data and improve the output formats.

Output Group: Environment and Sustainability

Protecting the environment is a key component in conserving the Territory's natural assets. Environment protection requires the Government, industry and the community to be well informed about relevant Government policy and regulatory frameworks. The objective of this Output Group is to advise Government about managing the risks of detrimental impacts on the environment arising from proposed land uses.

There is one Output within this Output Group:

- Environment and Sustainability

Output: Environment and Sustainability

This Output assesses and regulates environmental impacts of development, coordinates greenhouse and climate change policy and responses, and promotes the maintenance of aquatic ecosystem health.

| Performance Measures Output: Environment and Sustainability | 05-06 Actual | 06-07 Actual | 07-08 Estimate | 07-08 Actual | 08-09 Estimate |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Quantity | | | | | |
| Environmental assessment reports to Minister | 4 | 7 | 7 | 3 ⁽¹⁾ | 6 |
| Licences and approvals administered | 54 | 74 | 68 | 71 | 68 |
| Capacity to assist community, industry and local government to promote environmental sustainability ⁽²⁾ | N/A | N/A | \$0.57 | \$0.57 | \$0.58 |
| Capacity to provide advice about environmental protection and climate change matters | \$2.18M | \$2.4M | \$2.5M | \$2.5 | \$3.3M |
| Quality | | | | | |
| Stakeholder satisfaction with advice | 78% | 82.5% | 86% | 79% | 86% |
| Timeliness | | | | | |
| Meet statutory timeframes established under relevant legislation | 83% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

Explanatory Notes

1. The number of Environmental Assessment Reports is related to number of applications made under the *Environmental Assessment Act* requiring formal assessment. Number of applications made is not controlled by the Agency. Environmental Assessment Reports to the Minister varied due to proponents either not completing Environmental Impact Statement or Public Environmental Report documents. Some projects were withdrawn such as the Glyde Point Industrial Estate. Another project was redesigned and resubmitted (Compass Resources Tailings Storage Facility) which then altered the expected timelines.
2. This is a new performance measure for this Output, therefore no figures apply for 05-06 and 06-07.

Key Achievements in 2007-08: Environment and Sustainability

1. Provided secretariat services to the interim Environment Protection Agency Board and advice to the Minister to finalise and pass Environment Protection Authority legislation.
2. Contributed to improved environmental management in the community by implementing the fourth round of the \$480 000 EnvironmeNT Grants Program (which included an additional \$20 000 offered through the Packaging Stewardship Forum). In total 28 EnvironmeNT Grants were offered to individuals, 12 EnvironmeNT Grants were offered to schools with five ongoing Operational EnvironmeNT Grants continued and one new Operational EnvironmeNT Grant offered. As part of the Re-Thinking Waste in Schools Challenge, an additional 33 infrastructure grants of up to \$500 were offered to schools.
3. Assisted households to reduce energy use by providing operational funding of \$100 000 to COOLmob which works with the community to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions through home energy efficiency. Funding of \$50 000 was granted to Darwin and Alice Springs respectively for administering the Cool Community program.
4. Initiated development of a risk assessment approach to assist in determining the level of assessment required for proposals under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. This will provide a decision support tool and ensure a consistent and transparent approach to determinations, and also assist with the development of Guidelines for Environmental Impact Statements.
5. Supported improved waste management and resource recovery by coordinating the implementation of the Re-thinking Waste Disposal and Resource Efficiency Interim Action Plan. This Plan endeavours to integrate waste resource recovery and litter management with regional development and capacity building by engaging industry, local councils and schools to rethink their waste management, in partnership with the Packaging Stewardship Forum.
6. Coordinated the implementation of the Northern Territory Strategy for Greenhouse Action 2006, which included providing advice to Government on potential new Northern Territory climate change initiatives and contributed to the development of a new Northern Territory climate change policy.
7. Represented Northern Territory Government interests by leading the Northern Territory's involvement in areas of national climate change policy development. This included a state and territory proposal for a National Emissions Trading Scheme and the Garnaut Review of the Impacts of Climate Change on Australia.
8. Facilitated and supported the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee in reviewing the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management by assisting the Committee in drafting a report on the review and a strategic framework in preparation for public consultation.
9. Completed Assessment Reports for projects undergoing formal Environmental Impact Assessment:
 - Molyhill Tungsten and Molybdenum mine and processing project; 240km north east of Alice Springs
 - Princess Louise and North Point Gold Mine; located 170 km southeast of Darwin, 45km north west of Pine Creek and 12 km northeast of Hayes Creek and the Stuart Highway; and
 - Aircraft Landing Area for Matilda Minerals on Tiwi Islands.
10. Completed a report on recent and historical pollution loads entering Darwin Harbour waters from diffuse (stormwater and river flow) and point sources, together with projections based on 'business as usual' development and potential future land use planning scenarios.
11. Implemented and reported on draft national wetland indicator protocols for condition assessment of Darwin Regional lagoons and obtained funding from Land and Water Australia for an additional amphibian index to be developed to assess ecological health.

12. Ensured wastewater discharged to the environment was of an acceptable standard with the revision of conditions and reissue of waste discharge licences for Alcan Gove, Tamariki Holdings, and Power and Water Corporation waste treatment facilities in Alice Springs and Angurugu.
13. Ensured landfills were managed in a manner that minimised harm to the environment with the revision of conditions and re-issue of landfill licences for Yulara (Voyages Ayers Rock Resort) and Thamarrurr Council (Wadeye) community landfill.
14. Ensured that wastes listed under Schedule 2 of the Waste Management and Pollution Control (Administration) Regulations were handled in a manner that minimised harm to the environment by using licensed operators. Environment protection licences were reissued to seven waste handlers.
15. Improved understanding of the relative vulnerability of different areas of Darwin to potential impacts of climate change such as increased cyclone wind speed, increased storm surge, sea level rise and increased heat and humidity by participating in the Australian Government-funded study Integrated Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Urban Settlement.
16. Progressed the development of the Water Quality Protection Plan for Darwin Harbour and catchment by drafting water quality objectives to support the community endorsed Environmental Values.

Challenges in 2007-08: Environment and Sustainability

1. Meeting the demands of a booming economy and community and industry expectations, while identifying and implementing continuous improvement in delivering core functions of environmental assessment and regulation.
2. Recruiting and retaining staff with appropriate regulatory and policy skills in the face of the resources boom and national skills shortages.
3. Managing the increasing national and local focus on climate change resulting from the new work schedule of the Council of Australian Governments, the Garnaut Review of Climate Change, preparations for a National Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (emissions trading) and the formulation of a new Northern Territory Climate Change Policy.

Priorities in 2008-09: Environment and Sustainability

1. Improve understanding of air quality in the Darwin region and the capacity to manage it, by establishing a comprehensive air quality monitoring system for Darwin.
2. Assist the community to reduce its contribution to greenhouse gas emissions by implementing new initiatives targeted at Territory households.
3. Continue to pursue the Northern Territory Government's commitment to addressing climate change by participating in the development and implementation of Northern Territory and national climate change policies.
4. Support the community to achieve positive environmental outcomes through the 2008-09 EnvironmeNT Grants program.
5. Assess options for improved waste management and resource recovery by participating in an investigation of the merits of a national container deposit system under the Environment Protection and Heritage Council.
6. Assist the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee to prepare a revised [Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management](#) by undertaking community and stakeholder consultation.
7. Finalise and report on the implementation of the Re-thinking Waste Disposal and Resource Efficiency Interim Action Plan.
8. Finalise amendments to the [Environmental Assessment Act](#) Administrative Procedures.
9. Finalise accountable risk assessment requirements and incorporate these into decision making on projects submitted under the [Environmental Assessment Act](#).
10. Continue to support the Environment Protection Authority's review of the environmental assessment process by providing responses to review questions and maintaining communications.
11. Progress the development of a Water Quality Protection Plan for Darwin Harbour which incorporates collaborative water quality monitoring and modelling strategies to inform management decisions in the catchment, and ensure that environmental values are maintained and protected.
12. Investigate, and where possible adopt, best practice approaches to environmental regulation.

Output Group: Heritage Conservation

Heritage Conservation relates to the preservation and conservation of cultural assets including the built environment and sites of historical significance. The Northern Territory's identity is forged on its complex social history and an improved understanding of how that history and diversity can contribute to our capacity to care for country and seas.

There is one Output within this Output Group:

- Heritage Conservation Services

Output: Heritage Conservation Services

Heritage Conservation Services works to protect and conserve the Northern Territory's heritage assets through advice, assistance and regulation.

| Performance Measures Output: Heritage Conservation Services | 05-06 Actual | 06-07 Actual | 07-08 Estimate | 07-08 Actual | 08-09 Estimate |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Quantity | | | | | |
| Assessment reports to Heritage Advisory Council | 19 | 20 | 20 | 24 ⁽¹⁾ | 16 |
| Capacity to provide assistance to private owners of heritage places | \$0.16M | \$0.2M | \$0.2M | \$0.2M | \$0.2M |
| Capacity to maintain Government-owned heritage facilities | \$0.74M | \$0.74M | \$1M | \$1M | \$1M |
| Quality | | | | | |
| Stakeholder satisfaction with advice | 85% | 88% | 80% | 95% ⁽²⁾ | 80% |
| Timeliness | | | | | |
| Meet statutory timeframes established by the <i>Heritage Conservation Act</i> | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

Explanatory Notes

1. There has been an emphasis this year to clear the backlog of places that have been nominated to the Northern Territory Heritage Register but not assessed.
2. The Heritage Advisory Council (HAC) was asked to comment on the service it has received during the year.

Key Achievements in 2007-08: Heritage Conservation Services

1. Presented 24 heritage assessment reports to the Heritage Advisory Council for consideration for inclusion on the Northern Territory Heritage Register.
2. Declared 12 places and one object, the Sandfly locomotive (the first movable object to be declared), as registered heritage places and objects under the *Heritage Conservation Act*. This is the first time an item of 'moveable heritage' has been protected under the Act. The Sandfly was the first locomotive to operate on the Palmerston (Darwin) to Pine Creek Railway (North Australia Railway or NAR) in 1887 and was also the longest serving locomotive operating on the NAR with a career spanning 63 years. This engine was the only one of its class to work on the NAR.

List of Heritage Places declared in 2007-08:

- Anthony Lagoon
- C-47 Aeroplane Wreck – A65-115, Darwin Harbour
- Christ the King Catholic Church, Tennant Creek
- Defence 17½ Mile Camp
- Emungalan Wheel Rim Shrinkage Pit
- Spencer Hill WWII Sites, Alice Springs
- Ucharonidge Station 1949 Comet Windmill and No. 1 Bore
- WWII Strauss Anti-Aircraft Gun Emplacement
- WWII Pell Airfield 4RSU RAAF Workshop and Main Camp
- WWII Noonamah Cricket Pitch and Oval
- WWII Noonamah Railway Siding and Store Depot
- Wurrwurrwuy Stone Pictures

3. Implemented the \$1 million annual Northern Territory Government Repairs and Maintenance Program to government-owned heritage places in various regions including:

Darwin

Cape Don Lighthouse Precinct, Vestey's Tank, Former Navy Victualling Yard, Fannie Bay Gaol, Stella Maris Hostel and Qantas Hangar.

Katherine

Hunter House and Katherine North Australia Railway Bridge.

Tennant Creek

Tennant Creek Telegraph Station, Bonney Well and Barrow Creek Telegraph Station.

Alice Springs

Arltunga Heritage Reserve, Araluen Homestead, Alice Springs Telegraph Station and Old Courthouse.

4. Completed and opened the East Arm Leprosarium Memorial commemorating leprosy sufferers and their carers.
5. Met statutory timeframes established by the *Heritage Conservation Act*. The Heritage Advisory Council met four times during the year, as required under s14 (1) of the *Heritage Conservation Act*.
6. Continued the upgrade of the Northern Territory Heritage Register, which involved ongoing consultation with staff from the Northern Territory Government's Department of Planning and Infrastructure, who are building a new online database for the Agency.

7. Implemented the \$200 000 annual Northern Territory Government Heritage Grants Program, providing 10 grants for conserving privately owned heritage places. Grant recipients are listed below.

Grant recipients

| Grantee | Project | Grant \$ |
|---|---|----------|
| National Trust of Australia (NT) | Magistrates House, Myilly Point - Replace roof with new corrugated steel roof. | \$74 000 |
| Historic Hermannsburg Inc | Hermannsburg Historic Heritage Precinct - Restoration works to Meathouse and Nurses Quarters. | \$36 000 |
| Northern Land Council | Urrmaning ('Red Lily') Cultural Heritage site - Produce Conservation and Management Plan. | \$20 000 |
| Olive Pink Botanic Garden | Miss Pink's Garden - interpreting the life and vision of Olive Pink. | \$16 900 |
| Friends of the North Australia Railway at Adelaide River Inc. | Preservation of 1885 COWANS SHELDON railway crane. | \$16 000 |
| Adelaide House Museum for the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (NT) | Restoration of passive cooling system in Adelaide House. | \$10 000 |
| Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association Inc. | Stabilisation of Macassan Trepang Cooking Camp. | \$10 000 |
| Travel North, Katherine | Springvale Homestead Interpretative Panels. | \$7 500 |
| Darwin Harbour Underwater Survey Group | 'Portholes to the Past' - document WWII shipwreck U.S.A.T Mauna Loa and produce brochure. | \$5 000 |
| Genealogical Society of the NT Inc. | Interpretation signage - Plaques at Brock's Creek and Port Darwin burial sites. | \$3 000 |

Challenges in 2007-08: Heritage Conservation Services

1. Weather conditions and the remote locality of some heritage places hindered timely delivery of materials and resources for repairs and maintenance projects. This is not a new challenge, but it does highlight the continuing issues associated with the costs of transporting materials to some remote locations, and the limitations imposed on some projects due to weather conditions.

Priorities in 2008-09: Heritage Conservation Services

1. Finalise the new *Heritage Act* to go before the Legislative Assembly.
2. Complete the updated online version of the Northern Territory Heritage Register.
3. Upgrade the Archaeological Site Database to a new online version.
4. Provide at least 16 assessment reports about places nominated to the Northern Territory Heritage Register for consideration by the Heritage Advisory Council.

Output Group: **Scientific and Cultural Collections**

The Northern Territory holds a number of key cultural and scientific collections for the purposes of collection, conservation, exhibition and research into the Territory's natural, historical and cultural heritage. It is important to record the environmental and cultural history of the Northern Territory and the surrounding region in order to increase our understanding of critical contemporary issues in science, the environment and society and create new knowledge as a basis for future understanding, enhancing opportunities to make sense of our world. These activities are conducted at the Museum and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory and the Herbarium in Palmerston.

There are two Outputs within this Output Group:

- Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory
- Herbarium

Output: **Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory**

The Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory preserve and provide access to Territory art, cultural and natural history collections in the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, the Museum of Central Australia and historic buildings in the care of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. The Strehlow Research Centre cares for and facilitates appropriate access to the Strehlow collection of ethnographic objects and materials.

| Performance Measures Output: Museums and Art Galleries of the NT | 05-06 Actual | 06-07 Actual | 07-08 Estimate | 07-08 Actual | 08-09 Estimate |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Quantity | | | | | |
| Visitors | 298 876 | 331 137 | 300 000 | 306 030 | 300 000 |
| Major exhibitions | 9 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Grants and sponsorships received and managed | \$0.448M | \$0.77M | \$0.6M | \$0.6M | \$0.4M |
| Grants | 16 | 24 | 15 | 15 | 10 |
| Quality | | | | | |
| Visitor satisfaction | 97% | 97% | 95% | 95% | 95% |
| Acquisitions that meet collection policy | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Collection accessible to the public | 10% | 10% | 10% | 25% ⁽¹⁾ | 25% |
| Timeliness | | | | | |
| Public programs delivered within published delivery dates | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

Explanatory Notes

1. A rise in the percentage of collection accessible to the public was due to information relating to Natural Science collections being made available on the Agency's website.

Key Achievements in 2007-08: Museum and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory

1. Participated in the Repatriation of the Indigenous Cultural Property Program through extensive consultation and improved coordination with key partners, relevant agencies and Indigenous communities. Discussions were held with the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority, Strehlow Research Centre, Northern Land Council, Kakadu National Parks, and Traditional Owners from Oenpelli, Jabiru, Milingimbi, Ramingining, Yuendumu and Papunya communities.
2. Completed the successful repatriation of several important men's ceremonial objects from the Strehlow Collection to their identified Traditional Owners. Ted Strehlow originally collected these objects in April 1933 from the paternal grandfather of the new owners. The objects will be separated from the main collection and kept in the secure vault of the Strehlow Research Centre in accordance with the wishes of the Traditional Owners.
3. Delivered a training program for employees from the Ministry of Education and Culture, Timor-Leste, through the AusAID funded Australian Leadership Awards Fellowship Program. This program provided East Timorese museum professionals with access to Timor-Leste cultural material collections held at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, and providing them with access to collection management practices which underpin the care and preservation of museum and gallery collections.
4. Commenced joint development of an international exhibition with the National Directorate of Culture (NDC), Timor-Leste, including delivery of on-the-job training in Dili to members of the NDC by Agency employees and undertaking fieldwork and collection development.
5. Incorporated record numbers of primary type specimens of newly named species into the Natural Science collections. This included 27 holotypes (Crustacea, Insecta, Polychaeta, Mollusca, Pisces, Reptilia) and 34 lots of paratypes (Cnidaria, Crustacea, Insecta, Polychaeta, Mollusca, Reptilia).
6. Held the 24th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art from 15 August to 18 November 2007, with 104 works on display to the public. More than 62 000 people viewed the exhibition, with more than 1500 people attending the opening night ceremony at Darwin's Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. For the first time artwork was also presented online.
7. Showcased 48 students' artworks for the Exit Art exhibition program at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. The exhibition presents the developing visual arts practice of Territory students and their professional practice of the art world, with 44 artworks and six extension projects on display.
8. Developed and implemented the second year of the triennial Arafura Craft Exchange, an exhibition of contemporary craft that features four Indonesian artists and three Australian artists.
9. Published a monograph on the systematics of the snake-eyed skink genus (*Cryptoblepharus*) as Supplement 3 to *The Beagle* (Records of the Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory). Concentrating on taxa from the Australian region, the genus was found to comprise 62 taxa, of which 19 are newly described in this monograph.
10. Published Volume 23 of *The Beagle* which contained research papers on vertebrate-plant ecology, coral bleaching, taxonomy of polychaetes, taxonomy of fishes and taxonomy of skinks, including the descriptions of eight new genera and 23 new species.

11. Accessioned a record number of animals into the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory's Natural Science collections; 6137 invertebrates and 1585 vertebrates.
12. Described a new species of a Northern Territory freshwater fish, carp gudgeon (*Hypseleotris barrawayi*), named after a significant Aboriginal elder from Kakadu.
13. Completed casting of the giant bird (*Bullockornis planei*) and display-quality cranial casts of *Alkwertatherium webbi*, *Palorchestes painei* and *Pyramios alcootense*.
14. Recovered several rare specimens of dromornithid bird, *Barawertornis tedfordi*, from the Pwerte Marnte Marnte locality near Alice Springs. Few remains of the smallest and geologically oldest species of the giant flightless birds of the Family Dromornithidae have been found previously. The Pwerte Marnte Marnte fossil locality has produced many new specimens of this species for scientific study.
15. Extended painting rack space and upgraded sprinkler systems at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory's visual art store to provide a safer storage environment and sufficient storage space. During this process 280 artworks were photographed, documented and the condition of each painting recorded for future reference.
16. Digitised over 80 per cent of the Strehlow Research Centre's image collection. The collection has approximately 6500 black and white images dating back to the 1890s from various sources and exactly 4620 colour transparencies taken by Ted Strehlow between 1950 and 1975.
17. Commissioned and installed the Crossing Cultures display, which featured stories of Ted and Carl Strehlow, as well as a display dedicated to the senior Western Arrernte man 'Tjalkabota'.
18. Completed graphic restorations of the giant kangaroo (*Procoptodon goliah*) and enigmatic Miocene marsupial *Yalkipariodon*. Graphic restorations of fossil species are an important means of describing extinct animals that have never been seen before to the general public. Palaeontologists use them extensively in museum display and publications.
19. Completed a graphic restoration of a complete skeleton of the marsupial lion, *Thylacoleo carnifex*, and completed a study of its foot anatomy. The extinct, lion-like marsupial was the largest Australian carnivore. Several perfectly preserved complete and nearly complete fossilised skeletons were discovered in caves in the Nullarbor that have allowed, for the first time, an accurate full restoration of its appearance and a detailed analysis of its skeletal anatomy.
20. Prepared and provided extensive documentation information and images for 1400 bark and board paintings held in the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory Collection to a national survey of all the bark paintings and Papunya paintings held in public collections. The outcome of the survey will assist the Federal Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, the National Cultural Heritage Committee and expert examiners in their evaluations of applications for export permits under the [Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1987](#).
21. Opened a dedicated space at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory for presenting new media.

Challenges in 2007-08: Museum and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory

1. Accommodating increasingly larger and more complex National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award artwork entries into the gallery spaces at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.

Future Priorities in 2008-09: Museum and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory

1. Progress the development of the *Building Our Museums Sector 10 year plan* to address strategic and infrastructure planning issues for the museum sector in the Northern Territory.
2. Commence a \$300 000 project to develop an international touring exhibition for the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory's collection of Papunya Tula Boards. Created in 1971-72 the Papunya Boards sparked the development of the Western Desert Art movement, now recognised internationally as one of the most important events in Australian art history. This project will involve extensive research, conservation work and consultation with artists' and families.
3. Secure additional sponsors to ensure the future viability of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award.
4. Continue to develop improved partnerships with relevant agencies and communities to ensure Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory has the capability to meet the demands of the Repatriation of Indigenous Cultural Property Program.
5. Continue to foster museum to museum relationships within the immediate South East Asian region of eastern Indonesia and Timor-Leste through the delivery of international training programs, research and exhibitions.
6. Secure sponsorship to enable the delivery of professional development training initiatives, publications and interpretive materials that lead to the increased profile and capacity of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.
7. Complete the online database for works acquired through the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award to enable world wide access to high quality images and collection documentation.
8. Progress the World War II Defence of Darwin Museum options with the community and the Northern Territory Government.

Output: Archives

The Northern Territory Archives Service collects, preserves and provides community access to Northern Territory archives and facilitates historical research.

| Performance Measures Output: Archives | 05-06 Actual | 06-07 Actual | 07-08 Estimate | 07-08 Actual | 08-09 Estimate |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Quantity | | | | | |
| Archives collections managed | 2 756 | 2 812 | 2 900 | 2 997 | 3 200 |
| Archives issued to researchers | 43 391 | 48 959 | 30 000 | 25 230 ⁽¹⁾ | 30 000 |
| Quality | | | | | |
| Meet archives transfer requirements | N/A | N/A | 100% | 100% ⁽²⁾ | 100% |
| Timeliness | | | | | |
| Research requests satisfied within one month | 99% | 100% | 90% | 100% | 90% |

Explanatory Notes

- Over 25 000 archival items were issued to researchers in public search rooms in Darwin and Alice Springs. This is a considerable reduction from previous years. Although visitation has increased, information about archives has improved to the extent that the retrieval process is more efficient and irrelevant archives are not issued to researchers.
- All government transfers of archives were completed in full compliance with requirements of Part 9 of the *Information Act*.

Key Achievements in 2007-08: Archives

- Transferred over 180 collections/series of archives from Northern Territory Government agencies and private sources. This is a considerable increase from previous years and is attributed to a focussed priority on processing archives collections.
- Recorded 33 oral history interviews with individuals about their Territory experiences through the Oral History Program, 13 of these interviews were transcribed for community reference.
- Provided 570 researchers with access to archives in the Darwin and Alice Springs search rooms, with 4000 archival items copied for researchers.
- Issued four standards relating to the transfer of Northern Territory Government archives and public access to archives in accordance with its obligations under the *Information Act*.
- Implemented new processes following the transfer of the Archives Service from the Northern Territory Government Department of Corporate and Information Services, and implemented its separation from government records management responsibilities. This included the development of draft amendments to the *Information Act*.
- Issued \$50 000 through the Northern Territory History Grants Program to 18 recipients to assist with their research of Northern Territory history.
- Continued to implement the archives management system with the documentation and entry of 281 new series of archives and 439 consignment lists and data entry.
- Facilitated family research and convened the Aboriginal Advisory Group to manage the Protocol for Access to Northern Territory Government Records by Aboriginal People Researching their Families.

9. Redesigned and updated the Agency's Archives Service website to provide more information about archives services and the collections available to the community.
10. Convened and facilitated the annual national conference of the Australian Society of Archivists in Alice Springs.

Challenges in 2007-08: Archives

1. The immediate limitation of space has restricted the ability to accept larger government archives transfers, however, strategies for the development of future archives repository storage space are being investigated.
2. The ability to conduct comprehensive internet searches of the archives collections has not yet been realised, but will be available when implementation of the archives management system is completed in the coming years.

Future Priorities in 2008-09: Archives

1. Facilitate amendments to the *Information Act* to provide for the separation of the archives and records services, and to define and regulate the role of the Archives Service in providing its services to the government and the community.
2. Determine a strategy to achieve long term archive storage and accommodation requirements for the Northern Territory Archives Service in Darwin.
3. Implement the archives management system to increase management efficiency and on-line accessibility of the archives collections.
4. Review the oral history collection to assess preservation requirements and improve accessibility.
5. Determine a strategy for the retention of digital archives.

Output: Herbarium

The Herbarium collects and identifies, then enhances and preserves, the natural flora heritage of the Territory for posterity. It also allows use by the wider community and provides advice and assistance.

| Performance Measures Output: Herbarium | 05-06 Actual | 06-07 Actual | 07-08 Estimate | 07-08 Actual | 08-09 Estimate |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Quantity | | | | | |
| Number of specimens in the collection | 222 000 | 232 304 | 246 000 | 237 112 ⁽¹⁾ | 249 000 |
| Quality | | | | | |
| Standard of curation of botanical collections ⁽²⁾ | 97% | 95% | 90% | 91% | 90% |
| Timeliness | | | | | |
| Project milestones met | 90% | 90% | 90% | 90% | 90% |

Explanatory Notes

1. The Herbarium collection grows in the number of specimens daily. There is no set expected number of yearly acquisitions as the Herbarium participates in an exchange program with other herbaria and staff add to the collection through various plant surveys. In the 2008-09 Budget Paper an estimate of 249 000 was quoted. This number represents the total number of accessions estimated if the loaned specimens from other herbaria are included. Loaned specimens do not belong to the Northern Territory Herbarium and therefore should not have been included in the estimate. It is estimated the number of accessions will approach 242 000 by 2008-09.
2. Random specimen accession numbers are generated and then matched against specimens in the Herbarium database. Specimens are then assessed for retrievability, correct nomenclature, damage, correctness of processing, and whether archived correctly.

Key Achievements in 2007-08: Herbarium

1. Enhanced the knowledge of the Territory flora by collecting new data for the International Union for Conservation of Nature assessment of data deficient flora at Limmen National Park, Bullo River Station, and Gove, Alcan.
2. Enhanced the knowledge of the Territory flora by describing two new species to science, *Ficus carpenatriensis* and *Utricularia simmondsii*.

3. Preserved 5 267 herbarium specimens to the main collection in Darwin and Alice Springs.
4. Provided 80 days of advice and assistance to the community, Charles Darwin University, interstate agencies, consultants, and other Northern Territory Government agencies.
5. Identified 2 538 plant specimens for the public in Darwin and Alice Springs.
6. Provided the community with 42 days use of the reference room.
7. Updated the Public Reference set to make it more user-friendly for visitors to the Herbarium.

Challenges in 2007-08: Herbarium

1. Maintaining the curation of the collection and striking a balance between research and practical application. The data from the Herbarium feeds into all decisions regarding Northern Territory plants as well as the National Australian Virtual Herbarium Project, an initiative of the Council of Australian Herbaria of which the Territory is a member.

Priorities in 2008-09: Herbarium

1. Launch eFlora NT, which will have a internet enabled database to allow the community to access and search the Herbarium's corporate plant record database, Holtze. The website will also contain fact sheets on plants of the Northern Territory and a link to the eFlora website.
2. Publish eight volumes of the Flora of the Northern Territory which will include a review of each family of Northern Territory plants. It will be published with keys to identification, illustrations and descriptions and be available in hard copy and on the new eFlora NT website.
3. Publish Flora of the West MacDonal Ranges Interactive Key on the eFlora NT website to assist the community in identifying flora in this botanically diverse and significant region.

Output Group: Arts and Screen Industry Support

Arts and Screen Industry Support provides funding to arts organisations, development opportunities for creative expression, support to festivals, grants for arts and screen projects and training and development opportunities for film makers and artists. It aims to provide access to the Northern Territory's natural and social heritage, support artistic development and provide a link to national and international cultural data, enhancing opportunities to be informed, entertained and inspired. This access is also provided through the Araluen Centre at the Alice Springs Cultural Precinct.

There are two Outputs within this Output Group:

- Arts and Screen Sector
- The Araluen Centre

Output: Arts and Screen Sector

The Arts and Screen Sector provides financial and in-kind support to develop and promote the arts sector in the Northern Territory. Its role is to support, develop and grow the arts and screen industries in the Northern Territory.

| Performance Measures Output: Arts and Screen Sector | 05-06 Actual | 06-07 Actual | 07-08 Estimate | 07-08 Actual | 08-09 Estimate |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Quantity | | | | | |
| Grants managed | 813 | 908 | 700 | 538 ⁽¹⁾ | 700 |
| Grants distributed ⁽²⁾ | \$5.25M | \$6.2M | \$5.52M | \$5.45M | \$5.52M |
| Quality | | | | | |
| Stakeholder satisfaction | N/A | 85% | 85% | 85% | 85% |
| Timeliness | | | | | |
| Grants paid within agreed timeframes | 100% | 100% | 95% | 95% ⁽³⁾ | 95% |

Explanatory Notes

1. Grants managed include new applications and grants from previous years that run over multiple years before final acquittal. (331 new applications in 2007-08, 69 applications were outstanding, and 138 grants were acquitted). Due to applicants moving into multi-year agreements and the Regional Arts Fund Program being offered only once a year, fewer applications have been administered in 2007-08.
2. Grants funding distributed is derived from total monies committed in 2007-08 and includes paid and accrued funds
3. Accountability procedures have been tightened with grants not paid unless all outstanding acquittal requirements have been met. Additionally third party issues in processing of payments can affect the timing of payments.

Key Achievements in 2007-08: Arts and Screen Sector

1. Distributed \$5.45 million in Northern Territory Government arts and screen grants funding to 208 recipients across the NT to support and develop the artistic and cultural potential of the Territory. This includes the provision of \$272,000 towards screen grant recipients, \$1.37 million towards major, regional and remote festivals and \$3.8 million to 27 key arts organisations. The grants ensure that all Territory residents have access to a variety of arts and cultural activities either as an audience or as active participants.
2. Continued implementation of the *Building Strong Arts Business* (Indigenous arts) Plan of Action 2006-2009 as a whole of government strategy, including supporting positions in the non-government sector to build capacity and achieve strategic goals.
3. Developed and launched the program for the national Regional Arts Australia conference 'art at the heart' and provided funding of \$160 000. The conference, to be held in October 2008, will allow delegates to experience the culture and art of the Arrernte people of Alice Springs and bring together the diverse arts world – young and old, contemporary and traditional, Indigenous and non-Indigenous.
4. Provided logistical support, through the Inter Agency Film Task Force, for the Baz Luhrmann directed *Australia*, which filmed for 11 days in Darwin. This included the support of six industry attachments to work on the feature film, resulting in skills development of Territorians.
5. Continued annual funding of \$150 000 and in-kind support for each of the nationally recognised peak bodies supporting Indigenous visual arts and crafts, Association of Northern, Kimberley and Arnhem Aboriginal Artists Inc (ANKAAA) and Association of Central Australian Aboriginal Art and Craft Centres Inc (DesArt), to stimulate, encourage and support artistic development.
6. Attracted and secured the feature film *Balibo*, to be filmed in the Northern Territory by providing a range of location stills (images), logistical support and \$50 000 in financial support. The film is expected to inject up to \$1 million into the Territory economy, and provide employment opportunities for Territorians as cast and crew.
7. Supported *Yarning Up*, a documentary making initiative, through the Screen Grants Program with four documentaries being completed in remote Top End communities. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Australian Film Commission and National Indigenous Television Service were partners in this initiative providing \$85 000 in funding. This initiative builds the creative talents in the Territory screen industry.
8. Held theatre and performance forums in Alice Springs and Darwin, as part of a review initiated in partnership with the Australia Council for the Arts, to assess the current strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for the continued development of theatre in the Northern Territory.
9. Held a series of workshops in Darwin and Territory regional centres where approximately 80 arts workers and volunteers gained skills in the key elements of planning and programming of arts and cultural events, such as exhibitions, festivals and fairs and an understanding of legal responsibilities, organisational structure, culture and operations for board and committee members.
10. Provided financial and in-kind support of \$223 000, through the *Building Strong Arts Business* strategic initiative, for Indigenous theatre, dance, music, literature and visual arts to develop, market and show case their work nationally and internally.
11. Supported the 4th Northern Territory Music Awards by providing \$100 000 for this annual event. In 2007 the event incorporated the inaugural Memorial Award for Best Emerging Talent named after G.R Burarrawanga in recognition of his lifetime contribution to Northern Territory Indigenous music and musicians.

12. Partnered with the NT Writers Centre to introduce several feature script development initiatives, including Year of the Screenplay, and held script analysis meetings with British based company Arista to provide access to professional development.
13. Sponsored the Australian International Documentary Conference and supported the attendance of six Territorians at the Conference, resulting in professional development and increasing the profile of both Territory stories and the Territory industry nationally and internationally.
14. Supported screen projects through the Screen Grants Program including the documentary series *Aboriginal Rules* on ABC Television, feature film *Rogue* released in cinemas, children's series *Double Trouble* launched at Cannes and *Silence Not Like Sand* broadcast on ABC as a radio play. This support resulted in bringing Territory stories to wider audiences.
15. Hosted Ausfilm, the Australian government-industry partnership that markets Australia as a filming destination, on a location reconnaissance visit, resulting in increased awareness of the Territory as a potential filming destination.
16. Provided advice to 30 inbound productions considering filming in the Northern Territory. Working with images, location scouts and surveys, the pitching process is an important part of this process, resulting in increased screen production in the Territory.

Challenges in 2007-08: Arts and Screen Sector

1. Providing support to the arts and screen sector in an environment characterised by a relatively small population spread over a very large area due to increased awareness locally and nationally resulting in increased demands.

Future Priorities in 2008-09: Arts and Screen Sector

1. Develop a Creative Industries Framework which will build on the previous Creative Communities Arts and Cultural Policy, NT Film Office and the Indigenous Arts Building Strong Arts Business strategies. The first step in developing the Framework will involve consulting key people and partner agencies to scope processes and resources, and develop a project plan with timeframes.
2. Stage the 2008 Regional Arts Australia national conference 'art at the heart' in October in Alice Springs. This includes hosting the Cultural Ministers Council prior to the conference to showcase the arts and cultural achievements of the Northern Territory.
3. Manage the *Building Strong Arts Business* Plan of Action 2006-2009 as a whole of government strategy, including supporting positions in the non-government sector to build capacity and achieve strategic goals.
4. Evaluate and refine the Public Art Grants Program to include provision for public art skills workshops. This will enhance support for public art that reflects the Territory's unique character, history and culture.
5. Develop a Territory Screen Industry Framework, including a Northern Territory Film Office Strategy 2009-2013, action plans, outputs and performance indicators, to drive innovation and development of the screen industry in the Territory, including an Indigenous industry focus.
6. Develop and expand the *Yarning Up* screen initiative to create skill development and commercial opportunities for more Indigenous Territorians in remote communities, which will expand the creative industry base in the Territory.

Output: The Araluen Centre

The Araluen Centre delivers, facilitates and promotes performing arts, cinema, visual arts, cultural and tourism programs and attractions for residents and visitors to Alice Springs. The Araluen Collection, housed at the Araluen Centre in the Alice Springs Cultural Precinct, focuses on contemporary Indigenous and non-Indigenous art from the Central Australian region.

| Performance Measures Output: The Araluen Centre | 05-06 Actual | 06-07 Actual | 07-08 Estimate | 07-08 Actual | 08-09 Estimate |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Quantity | | | | | |
| Visitors to visual arts exhibitions | 37 587 | 28 179 | 31 000 | 23 949 | 31 000 |
| Patrons to cinema and performances | 23 826 | 23 870 | 30 000 | 28 038 ⁽¹⁾ | 30 000 |
| Quality | | | | | |
| Visitor satisfaction with Araluen galleries experience | 90% | 90% | 95% | 95% | 95% |
| Client satisfaction with Araluen theatre and cinema programs | 90% | 90% | 95% | 95% | 95% |
| Timeliness | | | | | |
| Public programs delivered within published delivery dates | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

Explanatory Notes

1. Visitation to cinema and performances increased significantly, but did not reach the overall projected figure. TV advertising was introduced, but its expected impact on visitation was not fully realised.

Key Achievements in 2007-08: The Araluen Centre

1. Hosted the annual Desert Mob art exhibition and associated events to increased audiences and achieved increased financial return to participating art centres.
2. Provided the venue for the Alice Springs Festival's Wearable Arts Acquisition Awards.
3. Received increased levels of donated artwork, valued at over \$300 000 in total for the Araluen Art Collection via the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Fund.
4. Established the Araluen Arrernte Custodians Reference Group, to advise on Arrernte Aboriginal cultural protocols and to assist with planning and delivery of cultural tourism.
5. Began development of a new, permanent exhibition at the Araluen Art Centre, documenting and analysing the history and development of Indigenous art in Central Australia by language group regions as part of the Northern Territory Government's Moving Alice Ahead initiative. The exhibition is scheduled to open in early 2009.
6. Developed a draft concept plan for the future of the Alice Springs Cultural Precinct, of which the Araluen Arts Centre is a key component.
7. Upgraded the grounds of the Araluen Centre, in partnership with the Agency's Alice Springs Desert Park, showcasing local species and improving visitor amenity.
8. Attracted strong audiences for the Araluen Art House Cinema Program throughout the year, with an increase of approximately 5000 visitors compared to the previous year.

Challenges in 2007-08: The Araluen Centre

1. Stabilising visitation by creating good working relationships with tour companies and private tourism operators for visual arts exhibitions, while continuing to expand opportunities for venue hire with theatre companies and presenters.

Priorities in 2008-09: The Araluen Centre

1. Finalise the concept plan for the Alice Springs Cultural Precinct, of which the Araluen Arts Centre is a key component, with a community consultation process integral to the final outcome.
2. Build and install a solar air conditioning plant, in partnership with the Alice Springs Solar Cities Consortium, to ensure collection storage and display conditions meet required standards, while at the same time reducing greenhouse emissions.
3. Continue to develop the grounds of the Araluen Arts Centre, as part of the Alice Springs Cultural Precinct, to become a desert landscape feature, in partnership with the Agency's Alice Springs Desert Park.
4. Open the new Indigenous art exhibition, as part of the Moving Alice Ahead initiative which tells the story of Indigenous art development in Central Australia from the early 1930s to current time.
5. Develop arts and cultural tours in association with the Araluen Centre's Arrernte Custodians Reference Group.
6. Continue to present an annual program of cinema, visual arts and performing arts events and activities, and the development, care and research of the Araluen Art Collection.

GBD: Territory Wildlife Parks

Territory Wildlife Parks is a Government Business Division responsible for managing the Territory Wildlife Park at Berry Springs and the Alice Springs Desert Park. Both Parks showcase the Territory's unique flora and fauna in a natural environment that is both inviting and interesting for visitors. These two Parks are key tourism attractions in their regions and act as a catalyst for visitors to extend their stay in the regions, with subsequent benefits for the tourism industry as a whole.

There are two Business Lines within this Government Business Division:

- Alice Springs Desert Park
- Territory Wildlife Park

Business Line: Alice Springs Desert Park

The Alice Springs Desert Park highlights Central Australia's unique fauna and flora, in a series of natural habitats that are inviting and interesting for the visiting public. It provides visitor experiences that showcase the biodiversity of the unique environment of Central Australia and contributes to the growth and development of the Territory's tourism industry.

| Performance Measures Business Line: Alice Springs Desert Park | 05-06 Actual | 06-07 Actual | 07-08 Estimate | 07-08 Actual | 08-09 Estimate |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Quantity | | | | | |
| Visitors | 90 040 | 91 042 | 81 000 | 74 615 ⁽¹⁾ | 91 000 |
| Key new visitor experiences | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 ⁽²⁾ | 3 |
| Quality | | | | | |
| Visitor satisfaction | 96% | 97% | 95% | 94% | 95% |
| Timeliness | | | | | |
| Daily guide presentations commenced on time | 97% | 97% | 90% | 90% | 90% |

Explanatory Notes

1. Decreased visitation at the Alice Springs Desert Park is due to an overall decrease in the number of tourists in Central Australia during the reporting period
2. Created new visitor experiences including:
 - Guided morning bird watching tours
 - Nocturnal tours
 - Beanies, Baskets and Bushtucker Tour

Key Achievements in 2007-08: Alice Springs Desert Park

1. Commenced guided spotlighting night walks and guided morning bird walks to diversify the experiences available to visitors and to increase the use of the Park outside standard opening hours.
2. Developed a partnership with Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council Tjanpi Desert Weavers to deliver a twice weekly Beanies, Baskets and Bushtucker Tour for visitors.
3. Awarded Northern Territory Brolga Award for Major Tourist Attraction.
4. Supported the Desert Park's Central Arrernte amere-atyeye (Traditional Owners) to deliver cross cultural tours on site and in Alice Springs.
5. Continued two, three-year zoo keeping and one horticulture apprenticeships for local Aboriginal people.
6. Diversified the existing Nature Theatre Presentation by introducing boobook owl, magpie, dingoes, galah and whistling kites.
7. Continued to consult with the Desert Park's Central Arrernte amere-atyeye (Traditional Owners) and sought support for, and began the clearance process, to build an amphitheatre at Alice Springs Desert Park.
8. Continued to provide economic opportunities for the Desert Park's Central Arrernte amere-atyeye (Traditional Owners) by providing;
 - airfares and accommodation for two family members to attend the Indigenous Economic Forum in Darwin;
 - substantial logistical support to participate in the two DesArt in the Park Indigenous night markets; and
 - airfares and accommodation to Melbourne to meet with a potential philanthropic group.
9. Established the Corporate Territorian Pass Program for local businesses, providing employees with a 33 per cent discount off the normal price of any Territorian Pass when a minimum of 10 passes are purchased.
10. Sold 2 258 Territorian Passes, which are available to anyone living in the Northern Territory and provide unlimited access to the Park for 12 months for the price of a single entry.
11. Hosted the Science Week activities Scienema Film Festival and Starry Night Astronomy.
12. Hosted Big November Night, a free evening organised by the Alice Springs Desert Park for Alice Springs residents, where they can celebrate the Park in partnership with the Friends of the Desert Park, which attracted 776 visitors to the Park.
13. Hosted components of the annual Alice Springs Desert Festival by providing wildflower, dot painting and weaving classes to visitors.
14. Continued to host Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council Tjanpi Desert Weavers monthly weaving workshops for Alice Springs Desert Park visitors.
15. Released brush-tailed bettong, bilbies, bush-stone curlew, echidna and mala into the nocturnal new free range exhibit.

Challenges in 2007-08: Alice Springs Desert Park

1. Incorporating the Agency's involvement in supporting a range of regional and community aspirations and developments, including the Red Centre Way and the West MacDonnell Ranges, within the capacity of the Alice Springs Desert Park.

Priorities in 2008-09: Alice Springs Desert Park

1. Partner with nature based film festivals using the new cinema technology and outdoor screening facility. This will contribute to the Moving Alice Ahead Indigenous Arts and Culture project and provide strategic links with the Araluen Arts Centre.
2. Increase the number of paid tours during peak season by diversifying current tours and increasing the number of guided spotlight night walks.
3. Complete the Master Planning process and develop an integrated visitor experience plan.
4. Continue development of partnerships with like-minded organisations to develop initiatives like a culture garden.

Business Line: Territory Wildlife Park

The Territory Wildlife Park highlights the Top End's unique fauna and flora in a series of natural habitats in a way that is inviting and interesting for the visiting public. It provides visitor experiences that showcase the biodiversity of the unique environment of the Top End and contributes to the growth and development of the Territory's tourism industry.

| Performance Measures Business Line: Territory Wildlife Park | 05-06 Actual | 06-07 Actual | 07-08 Estimate | 07-08 Actual | 08-09 Estimate |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Quantity | | | | | |
| Visitors | 66 283 | 70 618 | 75 000 | 76 078 ⁽¹⁾ | 77 000 |
| Key new visitor experiences | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 ⁽²⁾ | 3 |
| Quality | | | | | |
| Visitor satisfaction | 96% | 97% | 95% | 98% | 95% |
| Timeliness | | | | | |
| Daily guide presentations commenced on time | 90% | 95% | 90% | 90% | 90% |

Explanatory Notes

1. Increased visitation due to target marketing and an increase in special events.
2. Created three new visitor experiences;
 - Twilight Tour;
 - Woodland Walk; and
 - Wallabies in the Picnic Area.

Key Achievements in 2007-08: Territory Wildlife Park

1. Commenced evening activities such as Twilight Nights and Nocturnal Tours to diversify the experiences available to visitors and increase the use of the Park outside standard opening hours.
2. Introduced a new day and guided evening Woodland Walk to showcase the diversity of life living in this habitat.
3. Hosted two Twilight Nights at the Territory Wildlife Park attracting over 2 000 visitors who caught in excess of 600 cane toads as part of the evenings activities.
4. Diversified the existing Flight Deck presentation by introducing black-necked stork and dingoes.
5. Moved visitor friendly wallabies to the picnic area for visitors to have close, safe encounters with wildlife.
6. Continued to develop relationships with, seek involvement from and provide economic opportunities for Kungarakkan - Warrai custodians that included.
 - consignment arrangements to sell wares in the gift shop;
 - airfares and accommodation for two family members to attend the Indigenous Economic Forum; and
 - airfares and accommodation for eldest Kungarakkan Custodian and her carer to record cultural stories onsite for a week, and a free of charge meeting space on country for the Kunguragan Cultural Education Association.
7. Restructured the tour guide department and amended the Park's train transport timetable to improve visitor services and reliability.
8. Sold 4743 Territorian Passes. These are available to anyone living in the Northern Territory and provide unlimited access to the Park for 12 months for the price of a single entry.

9. Promoted a 12 month plan of interactive and fun school holiday programs targeted towards Territorian Pass Holders and visitors such as the Drumming Monkeys travelling environmental performers.
10. Attended four trade shows to showcase the Park, increase media exposure, industry awareness and for general public relations purposes.
11. Paved and improved access and lighting to the functions area to make it more useful to groups.
12. Managed the Territory Wildlife Park café for the reporting period and started negotiations for a new concession arrangement.

Challenges in 2007-08: Territory Wildlife Park

1. The effects of Tropical Cyclone Helen closed the Territory Wildlife Park for three days in January while staff and volunteers removed debris from the Park and ensured the pathways were safe for visitors.
2. Evolving the Territory Wildlife Park in line with changing market trends, customer needs and integrating planning and activities with regional and community aspirations and developments.
3. Conducting business as a tourism operator in a highly seasonal and volatile business environment.

Priorities in 2008-09: Territory Wildlife Park

1. Commence a new concession arrangement for the café and gift shop.
2. Complete a freshwater whip ray feeding pool to enhance the visitor experience.
3. Introduce mountain bikes for visitors to traverse the Park in an environmentally friendly manner while improving their experiences.
4. Increase the number of paid tours during peak season by diversifying current tours and increasing the number of guided spotlight night walks.

Financial Statements



Financial Statements

The Agency comprises two budget and reporting entities for the purposes of the *Financial Management Act*:

- The Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts; and
- Territory Wildlife Parks Government Business Division.

This requires the Agency to prepare separate financial statements for inclusion in the annual report.

Accordingly, two separate sets of financial statements are provided:

- The Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts (the Department); and
- Territory Wildlife Parks

The Department's Financial Statement Overview

For the Year Ended 30 June 2008

This section of the report provides an analysis of the financial outcome of the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts for the year ended 30 June 2008.

The financial statements in this report represent the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts (the 'Department') as well as consolidated statements (the 'Group') incorporating the Natural Resource Management Board Incorporated. Financial information is provided for both the Department and Group for 2007-08 and comparatively for 2006-07.

The Natural Resource Management Board (NRMB) was established as an incorporated association in 2005 to implement a strategic approach to natural resource management through the Northern Territory Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan and Regional Investment Strategy within the framework of the Natural Heritage Trust Bilateral Agreement. The consolidation of the NRMB into the Agency financial statements recognises the control the Department has over appointing members to the Board.

As the NRMB is an incorporated association it is required to prepare its own statement of accounts for the financial year so the following commentary relates only to the Department.

Operating Statement

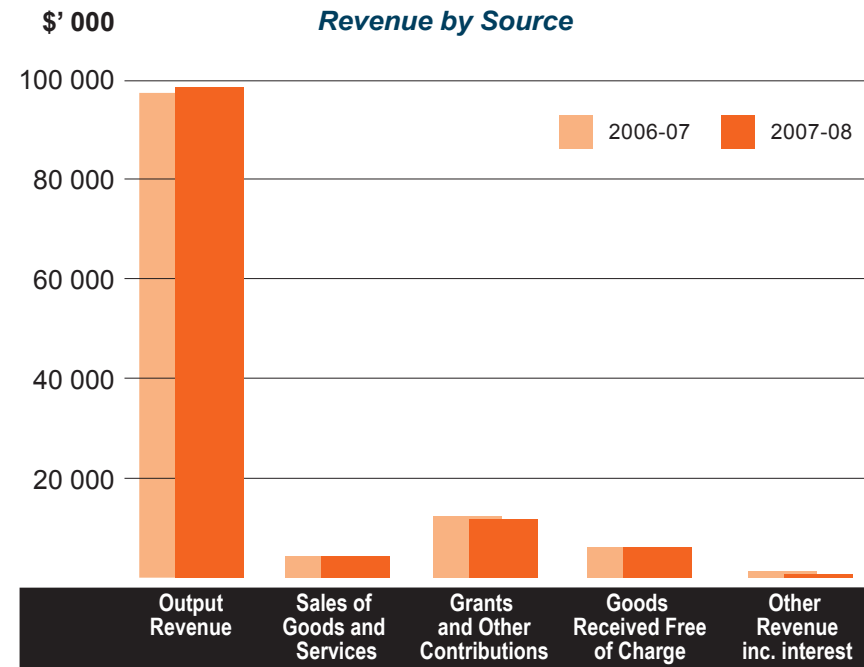
The Operating Statement provides information on the financial performance of the Department during the year. The profit or loss for the year is calculated by subtracting expense items from the revenue items.

In 2007-08, the Department made a loss of \$5.2 million compared to a loss of \$3.9 million for the same period last year. The Department does not receive funding for non-cash expenses such as depreciation and amortisation (\$5.2 million in 2007-08 and \$4.9 million in 2006-07). The Department records a profit of \$0 million in 2007-08 and profit of \$1 million in 2006-07 when adjusted for these expenses.

Income – Where the Dollars Came From

The Department received operating income of \$122.5 million in 2007-08 compared with \$121 million in 2006-07. The Revenue by Source graph (right) compares the Department’s income by source for each financial year.

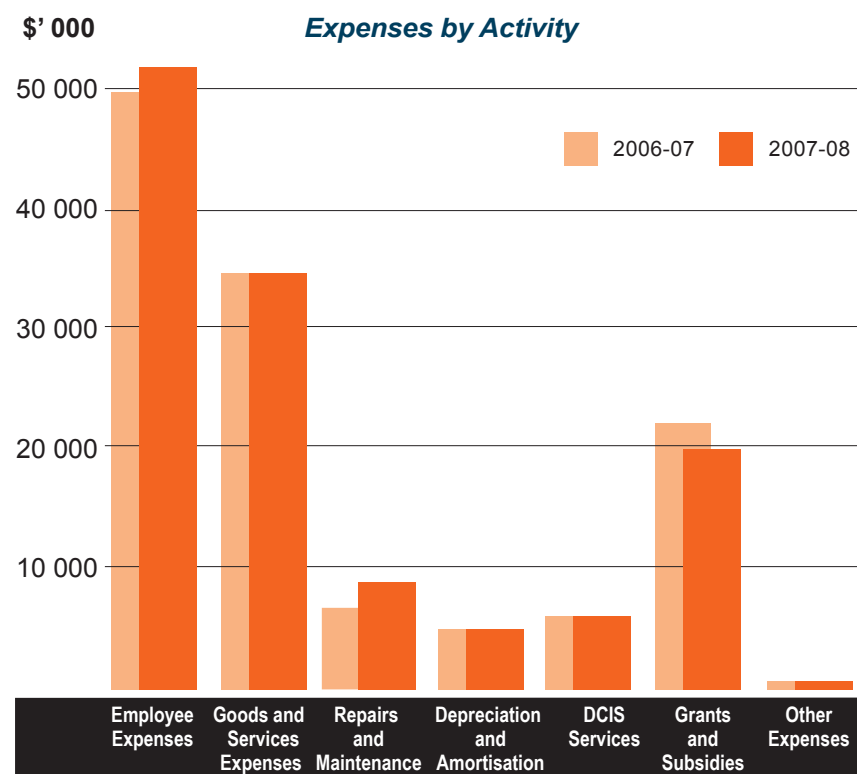
The Department is funded primarily through Northern Territory Parliamentary appropriation with the next major income source being grants from the Australian Government and other external funding bodies, and to a lesser degree charges for our goods and services. The Department also recognises notional revenue from the Northern Territory Government’s Department of Corporate and Information Services (DCIS) for services received free of charge. DCIS corporate services charges are recognised as a notional expense and offset with notional revenue. This income and expense item allows the Department to bring to account the cost of the centralised corporate services provided by DCIS.



In 2007-08 output revenue increased by \$1.7 million. This higher appropriation was offset in part by minor decreases in other revenue streams totalling \$0.3 million. The Department continues to attract a significant amount of external grant funding (\$11.9 million in 2007-08, \$12.1 million in 2006-07). Grant revenue is an essential part of the Department’s funding and improves our capacity to deliver outcomes through the fostering of strategic partnerships with other governments, businesses and community groups.

Expenses – Where the Dollars Were Spent

In the delivery of its core activities, the Department incurred \$127.7 million in expenses during 2007-08, an increase of \$2.7 million from the prior year. The Expenses by Activity graph (below) provides a breakdown of the primary components of the Department’s expenses for 2006-07 and 2007-08, and demonstrates that payments to employees and purchases of goods and services account for 68 percent of the Department’s outlays. Payments of grants and subsidies, and repairs and maintenance are the other major Department expenses, with depreciation and DCIS charges representing non-cash transactions.



Employee Expenses

Employee expenses increased by 4 percent or \$2.1 million compared to the previous year. This is attributed to a pay increase for all employees negotiated under the 2007 Northern Territory Public Sector Workplace Agreement, and the employment of additional staff under short term contracts funded through external grants. The Department had 688 full time equivalent employees as at 30 June 2008 including 51 externally funded full time equivalents.

Goods and Services Expenses

The level of expenditure on the purchase of goods and services has remained constant between 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Repairs and Maintenance

Repairs and maintenance increased by \$2.4 million in 2007-08 or 36 percent over the prior year. This increase relates to \$1 million for salt intrusion barrages in the Mary River and a \$1.4 million overall increase in the repairs and maintenance program across all the Divisions within the Department.

Grants and Subsidies

In 2007-08 the Department distributed \$20.1 million in grants and subsidies compared to \$22.2 million in the prior year.

Grant recipients included art organisations, natural resource management and biodiversity conservation community groups. Appropriation funded payments were made in the form of a Community Service Obligation payment of \$7.9 million to the Territory Wildlife Parks for the delivery of non commercial functions, and payments totalling \$8.5 million under the Northern Territory Government arts, regional museums, environment, heritage and wildlife management grant programs.

Externally funded grant payments of \$3.7 million were distributed in 2007-08 (\$5.7 million in 2006-07) including \$1.7 million released under the Australian Government funded Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) Bilateral Agreement between the Australian and Northern Territory Governments.

Balance Sheet

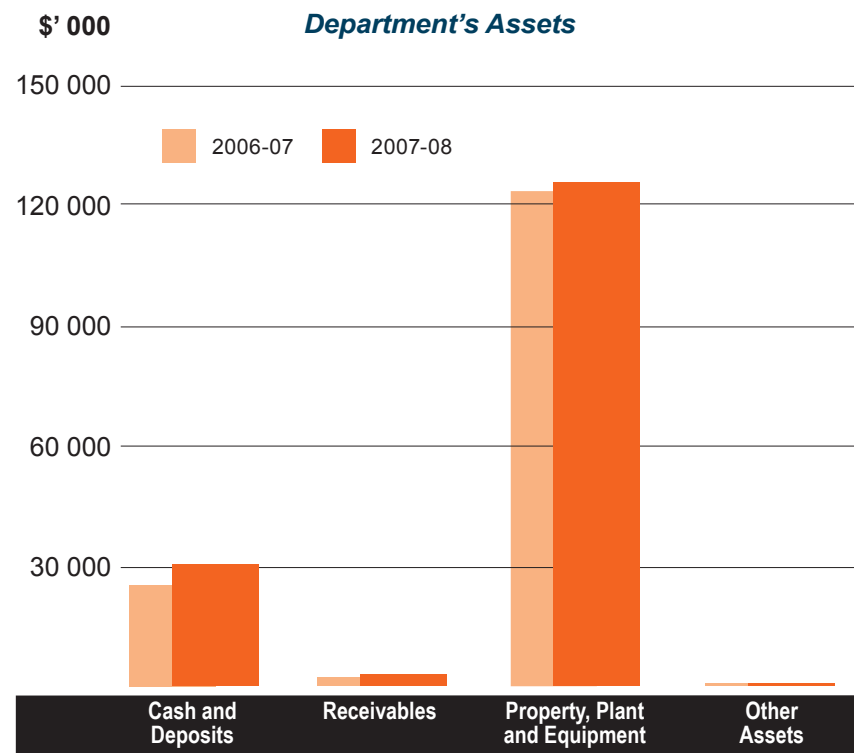
The balance sheet provides a summary of the Department’s balances at the end of the financial year for assets, liabilities and equity.

Assets – What We Control

The Department’s total assets of \$160 million as at 30 June 2008 represent an increase of \$7.7 million over the previous year. The Department’s Assets graph (below) illustrates that the major asset components of cash and property, plant and equipment make up 98 percent of our asset base.

Cash and deposits of \$30.5 million were held as at 30 June 2008 compared to \$25.3 million at June 2007. The balance includes \$9.2 million (\$13.6 million the previous year) of Australian Government funds held in the National Heritage Trust (NHT) Single Holding Account. These funds are released when a decision is made by the NHT Joint Steering Committee to fund approved projects.

The Department’s property, plant and equipment assets total \$126 million at 30 June 2008 and include land, buildings (eg. the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory at Bullocky Point and the Araluen Centre in Alice Springs), infrastructure (e.g. car parks, walking trails and shelters), transport equipment (eg. drilling rigs and auxiliary equipment) and information technology equipment. While the Department also holds a significant amount of works of art, cultural, and natural science collections in the Art Galleries of the Northern Territory, these were not valued nor recognised for financial reporting purposes at 30 June 2008. The valuation of the primary art collection managed by the Department is currently underway, along with the full collection of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.



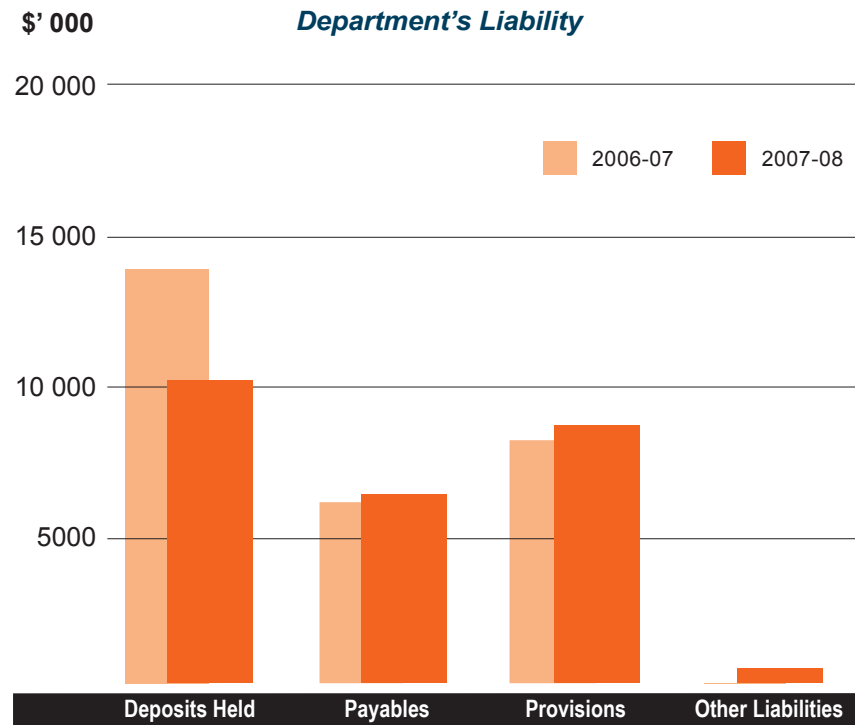
Liabilities – What We Owe

The Department’s total liabilities of \$25.6 million at 30 June 2008 include a decrease of \$2.5 million over the previous year. The Department’s Liability graph (below) shows the components of liabilities as deposits held, payables (mainly trade creditors, accrued salaries and accrued expenses) and provisions for employee entitlements.

Deposits held reflect the money held in the NHT single holding account on behalf of the Australian Government. These funds are recognised as a liability to the Australian Government until a decision is made by the NHT Joint Steering Committee to release the funds for approved projects.

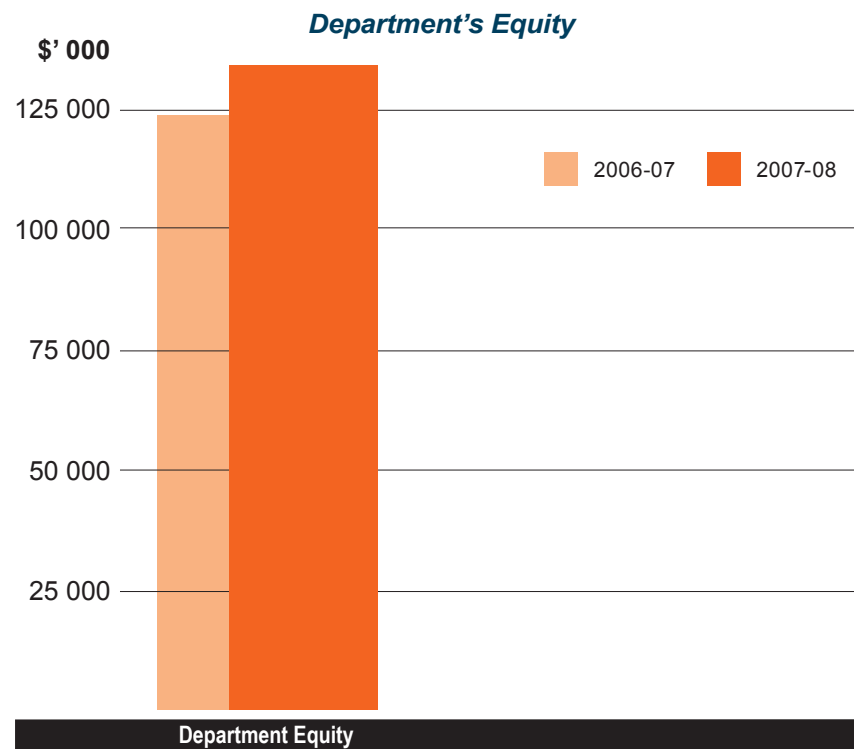
Payables represent the amount owing to creditors at 30 June 2008 for goods and services purchased and received.

Provisions for employee entitlements such as recreation leave and recreation leave fares were adjusted during the year to reflect the net present value of future entitlements. i.e. the cost in current day dollars of employee entitlements, that are to be paid in the future.



Our Equity – What We Are Worth

Equity is the Department's net assets ('what we own or control') less the liabilities that we are accountable for ('what we owe'). Equity as at 30 June 2008 was \$134.4 million, an increase of \$10.3 million over the previous year. This includes the impact of a cash injection of \$7 million from NT Treasury being the return of cash borrowed in 2005-06.



Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement provides information on the nature and amount of cash flowing into and out of the Department during the year.

The Department's cash flows for the year are summarised as follows:

| Cash Flow Statement Summary | 2007-08 \$'000 | 2006-07 \$'000 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Net Cash from Operating Activities | 2 144 | 3 419 |
| Net Cash Used in Investing Activities | (677) | (822) |
| Net Cash used in Financing Activities | 3 745 | (1 365) |
| Net Increase in Cash Held | 5 212 | 1 232 |
| Cash at Beginning of Reporting Period | 25 305 | 24 073 |
| Cash at End of Reporting Period | 30 517 | 25 305 |

Net cash from operating activities was \$2.1 million in 2007-08, \$1.3 million less than the previous year. While output revenue received increased by \$1.7 million, overall cash decreased due to an increased spend of \$5.1 million on employee and goods and services expenses, and a decrease in grant payments of \$2.1 million.

Net cash from investing activities of -\$0.7 million in 2007-08 reflects cash spent on major asset purchases during the year, a decreased outlay of \$0.1 million less than in 2006-07.

Net cash from financing activities of \$3.8 million, mainly reflects the difference between cash received into and released from, the NHT single holding account of -\$4.3 million in 2007-08 (-\$1.8 million in 2006-07), parliamentary capital appropriation of \$0.6 million for the purchase of minor assets and the return of \$7 million cash from Northern Territory Treasury.

Certification of the Financial Statements

We certify that the attached financial statements for the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts have been prepared from proper accounts and records in accordance with the prescribed format, the *Financial Management Act* and Treasurer's Directions.

We further state that the information set out in the Operating Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement, and notes to and forming part of the financial statements, presents fairly the financial performance and cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2008 and the financial position on that date.

At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render the particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



.....
Jim Grant
Chief Executive Officer
30 September 2008



.....
Susan Kirkman
Chief Financial Officer
30 September 2008

Operating Statement for the year ended 30 June 2008

| INCOME | Note | Department 2008 \$'000 | Department 2007 \$'000 | Group 2008 \$'000 | Group 2007 \$'000 |
|---|-------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Grants and Subsidies Revenue – Current | | 11 914 | 12 134 | 21 721 | 17 825 |
| Output Revenue | | 99 057 | 97 320 | 99 057 | 97 320 |
| Sales of Goods and Services | | 4 548 | 4 348 | 3 954 | 3 802 |
| Interest Revenue | | 832 | 743 | 961 | 744 |
| Goods and Services Received Free of Charge ⁽¹⁾ | 4 | 6 096 | 6 203 | 6 096 | 6 203 |
| Gain on Disposal of Assets | 5 | - | 6 | - | 6 |
| Other Income | | 40 | 278 | 40 | 278 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 3 | 122 487 | 121 032 | 131 829 | 126 178 |
| EXPENSES | | | | | |
| Employee Expenses | | 51 833 | 49 689 | 51 954 | 49 689 |
| Administrative Expenses | | | | | |
| Purchases of Goods and Services | 6 | 34 559 | 34 568 | 34 718 | 34 568 |
| Repairs and Maintenance | | 9 060 | 6 672 | 9 060 | 6 672 |
| Depreciation and Amortisation | 10 | 5 151 | 4 885 | 5 151 | 4 885 |
| Other Administrative Expenses ⁽¹⁾ | | 6 111 | 6 212 | 6 111 | 6 212 |
| Grants and Subsidies Expenses | | | | | |
| Current | | 11 959 | 14 109 | 18 359 | 18 826 |
| Capital | | 232 | 264 | 232 | 264 |
| Community Service Obligations | | 7 915 | 7 833 | 7 915 | 7 833 |
| Interest Expenses | 16 | 832 | 744 | 833 | 744 |
| Loss on Disposal of Assets | 5 | 6 | - | 6 | - |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 3 | 127 658 | 124 976 | 134 339 | 129 693 |
| NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) | 14 | (5 171) | (3 944) | (2 510) | (3 515) |

¹ Includes DCIS service charges.

The Operating Statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2008

| ASSETS | Note | Department 2008 \$'000 | Department 2007 \$'000 | Group 2008 \$'000 | Group 2007 \$'000 |
|--------------------------------------|------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Current Assets | | | | | |
| Cash and Deposits | 7 | 30 517 | 25 305 | 33 779 | 26 399 |
| Receivables | 8 | 2 803 | 2 379 | 2 718 | 1 714 |
| Accrued Revenue | | 87 | 9 | 87 | 9 |
| Inventories | 9 | 304 | 347 | 304 | 347 |
| Prepayments | | 306 | 413 | 306 | 413 |
| Total Current Assets | | 34 017 | 28 453 | 37 194 | 28 882 |
| Non-Current Assets | | | | | |
| Property, Plant and Equipment | 10 | 126 006 | 123 846 | 126 008 | 123 846 |
| Total Non-Current Assets | | 126 006 | 123 846 | 126 008 | 123 846 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | 160 023 | 152 299 | 163 202 | 152 728 |
| LIABILITIES | | | | | |
| Current Liabilities | | | | | |
| Deposits Held | 13 | 10 137 | 13 919 | 10 137 | 13 919 |
| Payables | 11 | 6 345 | 6 091 | 6 421 | 6 091 |
| Provisions | 12 | 5 998 | 5 635 | 6 011 | 5 635 |
| Other Liabilities | 13 | 460 | 2 | 460 | 2 |
| Total Current Liabilities | | 22 940 | 25 647 | 23 029 | 25 647 |
| Non-Current Liabilities | | | | | |
| Provisions | 12 | 2 659 | 2 491 | 2 659 | 2 491 |
| Total Non-Current Liabilities | | 2 659 | 2 491 | 2 659 | 2 491 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | | 25 599 | 28 138 | 25 688 | 28 138 |
| NET ASSETS | | 134 424 | 124 161 | 137 514 | 124 590 |
| EQUITY | | | | | |
| Capital | 14 | 150 457 | 135 023 | 150 457 | 135 023 |
| Reserves | | 535 | 535 | 535 | 535 |
| Accumulated Funds | | (16 568) | (11 397) | (13 478) | (10 968) |
| TOTAL EQUITY | | 134 424 | 124 161 | 137 514 | 124 590 |

The Balance Sheet is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2008

| | Note | Department 2008 \$'000 | Department 2007 \$'000 | Group 2008 \$'000 | Group 2007 \$'000 |
|--|------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| BALANCE OF EQUITY AT 1 JULY | | 124 161 | 123 494 | 124 590 | 123 494 |
| Capital | 14 | | | | |
| Balance at 1 July | | 135 023 | 130 412 | 135 023 | 130 412 |
| Equity Injections | | 15 434 | 4 611 | 15 434 | 4 611 |
| Balance at 30 June | | 150 457 | 135 023 | 150 457 | 135 023 |
| Reserves | 14 | | | | |
| Balance at 1 July | | 535 | 535 | 535 | 535 |
| Increase/(Decrease) in Asset Revaluation Reserve | | - | - | - | - |
| Balance at 30 June | | 535 | 535 | 535 | 535 |
| Accumulated Funds | 14 | | | | |
| Balance at 1 July | | (11 397) | (7 453) | (10 968) | (7 453) |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for the Period | | (5 171) | (3 944) | (2 510) | (3 515) |
| Balance at 30 June | | (16 568) | (11 397) | (13 478) | (10 968) |
| BALANCE OF EQUITY AT 30 JUNE | | 134 424 | 124 161 | 137 514 | 124 590 |

This Statement of Changes in Equity is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 30 June 2008

| | Note | Department 2008 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows | Department 2007 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows | Group 2008 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows | Group 2007 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows |
|---|------|---|---|--|--|
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | | | | |
| Operating Receipts | | | | | |
| Grants and Subsidies Received | | | | | |
| Current | | 11 914 | 12 134 | 21 721 | 17 825 |
| Output Revenue Received | | 99 057 | 97 320 | 99 057 | 97 320 |
| Receipts From Sales of Goods And Services | | 10 415 | 10 162 | 9 256 | 10 281 |
| Interest Received | | 853 | 725 | 982 | 725 |
| Total Operating Receipts | | <u>122 239</u> | <u>120 341</u> | <u>131 016</u> | <u>126 151</u> |
| Operating Payments | | | | | |
| Payments to Employees | | (51 146) | (48 777) | (51 255) | (48 777) |
| Payments for Goods and Services | | (47 990) | (45 269) | (48 087) | (45 269) |
| Grants and Subsidies Paid | | | | | |
| Current | | (11 959) | (14 109) | (18 359) | (18 826) |
| Capital | | (232) | (264) | (232) | (264) |
| Community Service Obligations | | (7 915) | (7 834) | (7 915) | (7 833) |
| Interest Paid | | (853) | (669) | (854) | (669) |
| Total Operating Payments | | <u>(120 095)</u> | <u>(116 922)</u> | <u>(126 702)</u> | <u>(121 638)</u> |
| Net Cash From/(Used In) Operating Activities | 15 | <u>2 144</u> | <u>3 419</u> | <u>4 314</u> | <u>4 513</u> |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES | | | | | |
| Investing Receipts | | | | | |
| Proceeds from Asset Sales | 5 | <u>6</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>6</u> |
| Total Investing Receipts | | <u>6</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>6</u> |
| Investing Payments | | | | | |
| Purchases of Assets | 10 | <u>(683)</u> | <u>(828)</u> | <u>(685)</u> | <u>(828)</u> |
| Total Investing Payments | | <u>(683)</u> | <u>(828)</u> | <u>(685)</u> | <u>(828)</u> |
| Net Cash From/(Used In) Investing Activities | | <u>(677)</u> | <u>(822)</u> | <u>(679)</u> | <u>(822)</u> |

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 30 June 2008

| | Note | Department 2008 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows | Department 2007 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows | Group 2008 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows | Group 2007 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows |
|---|------|---|---|--|--|
| CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES | | | | | |
| Financing Receipts | | | | | |
| Equity Injections | | | | | |
| Capital Appropriations | 14 | 640 | 520 | 640 | 520 |
| Other Equity Injections | | 6 887 | - | 6 887 | - |
| Total Financing Receipts | | 7 527 | 520 | 7 527 | 520 |
| Financing Payments | | | | | |
| Deposits Paid | | (3 782) | (1 866) | (3 782) | (1 866) |
| Finance Lease Payments | | - | (2) | - | (2) |
| Equity Withdrawals | | - | (17) | - | (17) |
| Total Financing Payments | | (3 782) | (1 885) | (3 782) | (1 885) |
| Net Cash From/(Used In) Financing Activities | | 3 745 | (1 365) | 3 745 | (1 365) |
| Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held | | 5 212 | 1 232 | 7 380 | 2 326 |
| Cash at Beginning of Financial Year | 7 | 25 305 | 24 073 | 26 399 | 24 073 |
| CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR | | 30 517 | 25 305 | 33 779 | 26 399 |

The Cash Flow Statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

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Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Objectives and Funding

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts is responsible for:

- Conserving for posterity the Territory's parks and reserves, historic buildings, archives and permanent museum and art gallery collections;
- Protecting heritage sites and objects and threatened wildlife;
- Supporting community involvement in the environment and heritage and develop, promote and grow the arts sector and screen industries;
- Assessing and advising Government on environmental issues arising from proposed land uses and predict and mitigate threats created by floods, climate change, wildfires, invasive species, resource degradation, and nuisance wildlife;
- Investigating, monitoring, recommending and enforcing sustainable utilisation of natural resources including water, native vegetation and wildlife;
- Creating commercial, educational and recreational opportunities through the use of natural resources, artistic and creative enterprises and government owned institutions; and
- Providing administrative support and secretariat services to the Environment Protection Authority.

The Department is predominantly funded by, and is dependent on the receipt of Parliamentary Appropriations. The financial statements encompass all funds through which the Department controls resources to carry on its functions and deliver outputs. For reporting purposes, outputs delivered by the Department are summarised into eight Output Groups as follows:

- Parks and Reserves

- Biological Parks
- Natural Resources
- Environment and Sustainability
- Heritage Conservation
- Scientific and Cultural Collections
- Arts and Screen Industry Support
- Environment Protection Authority

Note 3 provides summary financial information in the form of an Operating Statement by Output Group.

2. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Financial Management Act* and related Treasurer's Directions. The *Financial Management Act* requires the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts to prepare financial statements for the year ended 30 June based on the form determined by the Treasurer. The form of Department financial statements is to include;

- (i) a Certification of the Financial Statements;
- (ii) an Operating Statement;
- (iii) a Balance Sheet;
- (iv) a Statement of Changes in Equity;
- (v) a Cash Flow Statement; and
- (vi) applicable explanatory notes to the financial statements.

The form of Agency financial statements is consistent with the accrual budget format and the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards, including AASB 107.

The format also requires additional disclosures specific to Territory Government entities.

The financial statements have been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting, which recognises the effect of financial transactions and events when they occur, rather than when cash is paid out or received. As part of the preparation of the financial statements, all intra Agency transactions and balances have been eliminated.

Except where stated, the financial statements have also been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

Adoption of new and revised Accounting Standards

At the date of authorisation of the financial report, the following Standards and Interpretations were in issue but not yet effective:

Initial application of the following Standard will not affect any of the amounts recognised in the financial report, but will change the disclosures presently made in relation to the Department and its financial report:

| Standard | Effective annual reporting periods beginning on or after |
|---|--|
| AASB 101 'Presentation of Financial Statements' - revised Sept 2007 | 1 January 2009 |

(b) Department and Territory Items

The financial statements of the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts include income, expenses, assets, liabilities and equity over which the Department has control (Department items). Certain items, while managed by the Department, are controlled and recorded by the Territory rather than the Department (Territory items). Territory items are recognised and recorded by the Central Holding Authority.

Central Holding Authority

The Central Holding Authority is the 'parent body' that represents the Government's ownership interest in Government controlled entities.

The Central Holding Authority also records all Territory items, such as income, expenses, assets and liabilities controlled by the Government and managed by Agencies on behalf of the Government. The main Territory item is Territory income, which includes taxation and royalty revenue, Commonwealth general purpose funding (such as GST revenue), fines, and statutory fees and charges.

The Central Holding Authority also holds certain Territory assets not assigned to Agencies as well as certain Territory liabilities that are not practical or effective to assign to individual Agencies such as unfunded superannuation and long service leave.

The Central Holding Authority recognises and records all Territory items, and as such, these items are not included in the Department's financial statements. However, as the Department is accountable for certain Territory items managed on behalf of Government, these items have been separately disclosed in note 22 - Schedule of Territory Items.

(c) Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information for the 2006-07 financial year has been reclassified to provide consistency with current year disclosures.

(d) Presentation and Rounding of Amounts

Amounts in the financial statements and notes to the financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars, with amounts less than \$500 being rounded down to zero.

(e) Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes to accounting policies adopted in 2007-08 as a result of management decisions.

(f) Goods and Services Tax

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of Goods and Services Tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred on a purchase of goods and services is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office (ATO). In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as part of receivables or payables in the Balance Sheet.

Cash flows are included in the Cash Flow Statement on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are classified as operating cash flows. Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable or payable unless otherwise specified.

(g) Income Recognition

Income encompasses both revenue and gains.

Income is recognised at the fair value of the consideration received, exclusive of the amount of goods and services tax (GST). Exchanges of goods or services of the same nature and value without any cash consideration being exchanged are not recognised as income.

Output Revenue

Output revenue represents Government funding for Department operations and is calculated as the net cost of Department outputs after taking into account funding from Department income. The net cost of Department outputs for Output Appropriation purposes does not include any allowance for major non-cash costs such as depreciation.

Revenue in respect of this funding is recognised in the period in which the Department gains control of the funds.

Grants and Other Contributions

Grants, donations, gifts and other non-reciprocal contributions are recognised as revenue when the Department obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions. Control is normally obtained upon receipt.

Contributions are recognised at their fair value. Contributions of services are only recognised when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would be purchased if not donated.

Sale of Goods

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised (net of returns, discounts and allowances) when control of the goods passes to the customer and specified conditions associated with the sale have been satisfied.

Rendering of Services

Revenue from rendering services is recognised on a stage of completion basis.

Interest Revenue

Interest revenue is recognised as it accrues, taking into account the effective yield on the financial asset.

Goods and Services Received Free of Charge

Goods and services received free of charge are recognised as revenue when a fair value can be reliably determined and the resource would have been purchased if it had not been donated. Use of the resource is recognised as an expense.

Disposal of Assets

A gain or loss on disposal of assets is included as a gain or loss on the date control of the asset passes to the buyer, usually when an unconditional contract of sale is signed. The gain or loss on disposal is calculated as the difference between the carrying amount of the asset at the time of disposal and the net proceeds on disposal. Refer also to note 5.

Contributions of Assets

Contributions of assets and contributions to assist in the acquisition of assets, being non-reciprocal transfers, are recognised, unless otherwise determined by Government, as gains when the Department obtains control of the asset or contribution. Contributions are recognised at the fair value received or receivable.

(h) Repairs and Maintenance Expenses

Funding is received for repairs and maintenance works associated with Department assets as part of Output Revenue. Costs associated with repairs and maintenance works on Department assets are expensed as incurred.

(i) Interest Expenses

Interest expenses include interest and finance lease charges. Interest expenses are expensed in the period in which they are incurred.

(j) Cash and Deposits

For the purposes of the Balance Sheet and the Cash Flow Statement, cash includes cash on hand, cash at bank and cash equivalents. Cash equivalents are highly liquid short-term investments that are readily convertible to cash. Cash at bank includes monies held in the Accountable Officer's Trust Account (AOTA) that are ultimately payable to the beneficial owner – refer also to note 20.

(k) Inventories

General inventories are all inventories other than those held for distribution and are carried at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost of inventories includes all costs associated with bringing the inventories to their present location and condition. When inventories are acquired at no or nominal consideration, the cost will be the current replacement cost at date of acquisition.

(l) Receivables

Receivables include accounts receivable and other receivables and are recognised at fair value less any allowance for impairment losses.

The allowance for impairment losses represents the amount of receivables the Agency estimates are likely to be uncollectible and are considered doubtful. Analysis of the age of the receivables that are past due as at the reporting date are disclosed in an aging schedule in Note 8. Reconciliation of changes in the allowance accounts is also presented.

Accounts receivable and other receivables are generally settled within 30 days.

(m) Property, Plant and Equipment**Acquisitions**

All items of property, plant and equipment with a cost, or other value, equal to or greater than \$5,000 are recognised in the year of acquisition and depreciated as outlined below. Items of property, plant and equipment below the \$5,000 threshold are expensed in the year of acquisition.

The construction cost of property, plant and equipment includes the cost of materials and direct labour, and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

Complex Assets

Major items of plant and equipment comprising a number of components that have different useful lives, are accounted for as separate assets. The components may be replaced during the useful life of the complex asset.

Subsequent Additional Costs

Costs incurred on property, plant and equipment subsequent to initial acquisition are capitalised when it is probable that future economic benefits in excess of the originally assessed performance of the asset will flow to the Department in future years. Where these costs represent separate components of a complex asset, they are accounted for as separate assets and are separately depreciated over their expected useful lives.

Construction (Work in Progress)

As part of *Financial Management Framework*, the Northern Territory Government's Department of Planning and Infrastructure is responsible for managing general government capital works projects on a whole of Government basis. Therefore appropriation for Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts capital works is provided directly to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and the cost of construction work in progress is recognised as an asset of that Department. Once completed, capital works assets are transferred to the Department.

Revaluations

Subsequent to initial recognition, assets belonging to the following classes of non-current assets are revalued with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount of these assets does not differ materially from their fair value at reporting date:

- Land;
- Buildings;
- Infrastructure Assets;
- Heritage and Cultural Assets;
- Biological Assets; and
- Intangibles.

Fair value is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged, or liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arms length transaction. Other classes of non-current assets are not subject to revaluation and are measured at cost.

The unique nature of some of the heritage and cultural assets may preclude reliable measurement. Such assets, including works of arts, have not been recognised in the financial statements.

Depreciation and Amortisation

Items of property, plant and equipment, including buildings but excluding land, have limited useful lives and are depreciated or amortised using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives.

Amortisation applies in relation to intangible non-current assets with limited useful lives and is calculated and accounted for in a similar manner to depreciation.

The estimated useful lives for each class of asset are in accordance with the Treasurer's Directions and are determined as follows:

| Asset | 2008 | 2007 |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Buildings | 50 Years | 50 Years |
| Infrastructure Assets | 8-50 Years | 8-50 Years |
| Plant and Equipment | 10 Years | 10 Years |
| Leased Plant and Equipment | 3-5 Years | 3-5 Years |
| Heritage and Cultural Assets | 100 Years | 100 Years |
| Transport Equipment | 10 Years | 10 Years |
| Computer Hardware | 3-6 Years | 3-6 Years |
| Intangibles –Computer Software | 3-6 Years | 3-6 Years |

Assets are depreciated or amortised from the date of acquisition or from the time an asset is completed and held ready for use.

Impairment of Assets

An asset is said to be impaired when the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount.

Non-current physical and intangible Department assets are assessed for indicators of impairment on an annual basis. If an indicator of impairment exists, the Department determines the asset's recoverable amount. The asset's recoverable amount is determined as the higher of the asset's depreciated replacement cost and fair value less costs to sell. Any amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount is recorded as an impairment loss.

Impairment losses are recognised in the Operating Statement unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount. Where the asset is measured at a revalued amount, the impairment loss is offset against the Asset Revaluation Reserve for that class of asset to the extent that an available balance exists in the Asset Revaluation Reserve.

In certain situations, an impairment loss may subsequently be reversed. Where an impairment loss is subsequently reversed, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised in the Operating Statement as income, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment reversal results in an increase in the Asset Revaluation Reserve. Note 14 provides additional information in relation to the Asset Revaluation Reserve.

(n) Leased Assets

Leases under which the Department assumes substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset are classified as finance leases. Other leases are classified as operating leases.

Finance Leases

Finance leases are capitalised. A leased asset and a lease liability equal to the present value of the minimum lease payments are recognised at the inception of the lease.

Lease payments are allocated between the principal component of the lease liability and the interest expense.

Operating Leases

Operating lease payments made at regular intervals throughout the term are expensed when the payments are due, except where an alternative basis is more representative of the pattern of benefits to be derived from the leased property.

Payables

Liabilities for accounts payable and other amounts payable are carried at cost which is the fair value of the consideration to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the Department. Accounts payable are normally settled within 30 days.

(o) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for employee benefits accumulated as a result of employees rendering services up to the reporting date. These benefits include wages and salaries and recreation leave. Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries, recreation leave and other employee benefit liabilities that fall due within twelve months of reporting date are classified as current liabilities and are measured at amounts expected to be paid. Non-current employee benefit liabilities that fall due after twelve months of the reporting date are measured at present value, calculated using the Government long term bond rate.

No provision is made for sick leave, which is non-vesting, as the anticipated pattern of future sick leave to be taken is less than the entitlement accruing in each reporting period.

Employee benefit expenses are recognised on a net basis in respect of the following categories:

- wages and salaries, non-monetary benefits, recreation leave, sick leave and other leave entitlements; and
- other types of employee benefits.

As part of the *Financial Management Framework*, the Central Holding Authority assumes the long service leave liabilities of Government Agencies, including the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts, and as such no long service leave liability is recognised in Department financial statements.

(p) Superannuation

Employees' superannuation entitlements are provided through the:

- Northern Territory Government and Public Authorities' Superannuation Scheme (NTGPASS);
- Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS); or
- non-government employee nominated schemes for those employees commencing on or after 10 August 1999.

The Department makes superannuation contributions on behalf of its employees to the Central Holding Authority or non-government employee nominated schemes. Superannuation liabilities related to government superannuation schemes are held by the Central Holding Authority and as such are not recognised in Department financial statements.

(q) Contributions by and Distributions to Government

The Department may receive contributions from Government where the Government is acting as owner of the Department. Conversely, the Department may make distributions to Government. In accordance with the *Financial Management Act* and Treasurer's Directions, certain types of contributions and distributions, including those relating to administrative restructures, have been designated as contributions by, and distributions to, Government. These designated contributions and distributions are treated by the Department as adjustments to equity.

The Statement of Changes in Equity and note 14 provide additional information in relation to contributions by, and distributions to, Government.

(r) Commitments

Disclosures in relation to capital and other commitments, including lease commitments are shown at note 17 and are consistent with the requirements contained in AASB 116 and AASB 117.

Commitments are those contracted as at 30 June where the amount of the future commitment can be reliably measured.

(s) Group

The 'Group' refers to the consolidation of the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts and NRMB.

The preparation and presentation of consolidated reporting recognises the Department's control over the NRMB consistent with the requirements contained in AASB127.

| 3. Operating Statement by Output Group – Department Only | Note | Parks and Reserves | | Biological Parks | | Natural Resources | | Environment and Sustainability | |
|---|------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| | | 2008 \$'000 | 2007 \$'000 | 2008 \$'000 | 2007 \$'000 | 2008 \$'000 | 2007 \$'000 | 2008 \$'000 | 2007 \$'000 |
| INCOME | | | | | | | | | |
| Taxation Revenue | | | | | | | | | |
| Grants and Subsidies Revenue | | | | | | | | | |
| Current | | 47 | 86 | 3 | 4 | 10 040 | 10 565 | 568 | 216 |
| Output Revenue | | 27 313 | 27 691 | 10 244 | 10 033 | 30 983 | 30 768 | 4 430 | 4 414 |
| Sales of Goods and Services | | 807 | 825 | 23 | 25 | 1 894 | 2 055 | 41 | 33 |
| Interest Revenue | | | | | | 832 | 743 | | |
| Goods and Services Received Free of Charge | 4 | 1 817 | 2 061 | 199 | 236 | 2 245 | 2 008 | 319 | 367 |
| Gain on Disposal of Assets | 5 | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Other Income | | (1) | 72 | | 1 | 36 | 182 | | |
| TOTAL INCOME | | 29 983 | 30 735 | 10 469 | 10 299 | 46 030 | 46 321 | 5 358 | 5 031 |
| EXPENSES | | | | | | | | | |
| Employee Expenses | | 13 722 | 13 820 | 1 349 | 1 271 | 22 406 | 21 121 | 2 811 | 2 787 |
| Administrative Expenses | | | | | | | | | |
| Purchases of Goods and Services | 6 | 10 919 | 12 588 | 867 | 889 | 14 456 | 13 237 | 1 138 | 1 285 |
| Repairs and Maintenance | | 4 662 | 3 598 | 183 | 117 | 1 262 | 323 | | |
| Depreciation and Amortisation | 10 | 2 875 | 2 797 | 80 | 75 | 604 | 488 | 49 | 32 |
| Other Administrative Expenses ⁽¹⁾ | | 1 820 | 2 062 | 200 | 238 | 2 253 | 2 010 | 320 | 369 |
| Grants and Subsidies Expenses | | | | | | | | | |
| Current | | 292 | 226 | 95 | 158 | 2 920 | 7 015 | 807 | 608 |
| Capital | | | | | | | 2 | | |
| Community Service Obligations | | | | 7 915 | 7 833 | | | | |
| Interest Expenses | 16 | | | | | 832 | 744 | | |
| Loss on Disposal of Assets | 5 | 6 | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | | 34 296 | 35 091 | 10 689 | 10 581 | 44 733 | 44 940 | 5 125 | 5 081 |
| NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) | 14 | (4 313) | (4 356) | (220) | (282) | 1 297 | 1 381 | 233 | (50) |

This Operating Statement by Output Group is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

¹ Includes DCIS service charges.

| 3. Operating Statement by Output Group – Department Only | Note | Heritage Conservation | | Scientific and Cultural Collections | | Arts and Screen Industry Support | | Environment Protection Authority | | Total | |
|---|------|--------------------------|--------------|--|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|----------|----------------|----------------|
| | | 2008 | 2007 | 2008 | 2007 | 2008 | 2007 | 2008 | 2007 | 2008 | 2007 |
| | | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| INCOME | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Taxation Revenue | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Grants and Subsidies Revenue | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Current | | 11 | 51 | 746 | 789 | 499 | 423 | | | 11 914 | 12 134 |
| Output Revenue | | 2 475 | 2 424 | 12 226 | 10 945 | 11 138 | 11 045 | 248 | | 99 057 | 97 320 |
| Sales of Goods and Services | | 6 | 7 | 955 | 761 | 822 | 642 | | | 4 548 | 4 348 |
| Interest Revenue | | | | | | | | | | 832 | 743 |
| Goods and Services Received Free of Charge | 4 | 80 | 85 | 1 017 | 958 | 419 | 488 | | | 6 096 | 6 203 |
| Gain on Disposal of Assets | 5 | | | | 5 | | | | | 0 | 6 |
| Other Income | | | | | 10 | 5 | 13 | | | 40 | 278 |
| TOTAL INCOME | | 2 572 | 2 567 | 14 944 | 13 468 | 12 883 | 12 611 | 248 | 0 | 122 487 | 121 032 |
| EXPENSES | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Employee Expenses | | 658 | 690 | 7 495 | 6 782 | 3 333 | 3 218 | 59 | | 51 833 | 49 689 |
| Administrative Expenses | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Purchases of Goods and Services | 6 | 432 | 408 | 4 411 | 4 074 | 2 275 | 2 087 | 61 | | 34 559 | 34 568 |
| Repairs and Maintenance | | 916 | 736 | 1 132 | 1 181 | 905 | 717 | | | 9 060 | 6 672 |
| Depreciation and Amortisation | 10 | 7 | 5 | 894 | 852 | 642 | 636 | | | 5 151 | 4 885 |
| Other Administrative Expenses ⁽¹⁾ | | 80 | 86 | 1 018 | 960 | 420 | 487 | | | 6 111 | 6 212 |
| Grants and Subsidies Expenses | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Current | | 2 039 | 310 | 274 | 212 | 5 532 | 5 580 | | | 11 959 | 14 109 |
| Capital | | | | | | 232 | 262 | | | 232 | 264 |
| Community Service Obligations | | | | | | | | | | 7 915 | 7 833 |
| Interest Expenses | 16 | | | | | | | | | 832 | 744 |
| Loss on Disposal of Assets | 5 | | | | | | | | | 6 | 0 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | | 4 132 | 2 235 | 15 224 | 14 061 | 13 339 | 12 987 | 120 | 0 | 127 658 | 124 976 |
| NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) | 14 | (1 560) | 332 | (280) | (593) | (456) | (376) | 128 | 0 | (5 171) | (3 944) |

This Operating Statement by Output Group is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

¹ Includes DCIS service charges.

| | Department 2008 \$'000 | Department 2007 \$'000 | Group 2008 \$'000 | Group 2007 \$'000 |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 4. Goods and Services Received Free of Charge | | | | |
| Corporate and Information Services | 6 096 | 6 203 | 6 096 | 6 203 |
| 5. Gain on Disposal of Assets | | | | |
| Net proceeds from the disposal of capitalised assets | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Less: Carrying value of non-current assets disposed | (12) | 0 | (12) | 0 |
| (Loss)/Gain on the disposal of non-current assets | (6) | 6 | (6) | 6 |
| 6. Purchases of Goods and Services | | | | |
| The net surplus/(deficit) has been arrived at after charging the following expenses: | | | | |
| Goods and Services Expenses: | | | | |
| Consultants ⁽¹⁾ | 1038 | 2 184 | 1038 | 2 184 |
| Advertising ⁽²⁾ | 158 | 214 | 158 | 214 |
| Marketing and Promotion ⁽³⁾ | 423 | 558 | 423 | 558 |
| Document Production | 352 | 251 | 352 | 251 |
| Legal Expenses ⁽⁴⁾ | 709 | 149 | 709 | 149 |
| Recruitment ⁽⁵⁾ | 395 | 1 006 | 395 | 1 006 |
| Training and Study | 1045 | 747 | 1045 | 747 |
| Official Duty Fares | 1579 | 1 378 | 1579 | 1 378 |
| Travelling Allowance | 924 | 927 | 924 | 927 |

(1) Includes marketing, promotion and IT consultants.

(2) Does not include recruitment advertising or marketing and promotion advertising.

(3) Includes advertising for marketing and promotion but excludes marketing and promotion consultants' expenses, which are incorporated in the consultants' category.

(4) Includes legal fees, claim and settlement costs.

(5) Includes recruitment related advertising costs.

| | Department 2008 \$'000 | Department 2007 \$'000 | Group 2008 \$'000 | Group 2007 \$'000 |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 7. Cash and Deposits | | | | |
| Cash on Hand | 17 | 16 | 17 | 16 |
| Cash at Bank | 30 500 | 25 289 | 33 762 | 26 383 |
| | <u>30 517</u> | <u>25 305</u> | <u>33 779</u> | <u>26 399</u> |
| 8. Receivables | | | | |
| Current | | | | |
| Accounts Receivable | 2 301 | 1 412 | 2 301 | 790 |
| Less: Allowance for Doubtful Accounts Receivable | (55) | (46) | (55) | (46) |
| | 2 246 | 1 366 | 2 246 | 744 |
| Interest Receivables | 53 | 74 | 53 | 74 |
| GST Receivables | 504 | 939 | 419 | 896 |
| Total Receivables | <u>2 803</u> | <u>2 379</u> | <u>2 718</u> | <u>1 714</u> |
| Aging of Receivables | | | | |
| Not Overdue | 1 358 | 2 210 | 1 273 | 1545 |
| Overdue for less than 30 Days | 1 134 | 29 | 1 134 | 29 |
| Overdue for 30 to 60 Days | 44 | - | 44 | - |
| Overdue for more than 60 Days (includes S42 Firebreaks) refer to note 13 | 322 | 186 | 322 | 186 |
| Total Gross Receivables | 2 858 | 2 425 | 2 773 | 1 760 |
| Aging of Impaired Receivables | | | | |
| Impaired Receivables for more than 60 Days | (55) | (46) | (55) | (46) |
| Total Impaired Receivables | <u>(55)</u> | <u>(46)</u> | <u>(55)</u> | <u>(46)</u> |
| Reconciliation of the Allowance for Impairment Losses | | | | |
| Allowance for Impairment Losses at the Beginning of the Reporting Period | 46 | 46 | 46 | 46 |
| Increase in allowance recognised in profit or loss | 9 | - | 9 | - |
| Allowance for Impairment Losses at the End of the Reporting Period | <u>55</u> | <u>46</u> | <u>55</u> | <u>46</u> |
| 9. Inventories | | | | |
| General Inventories | | | | |
| At cost | 304 | 347 | 304 | 347 |
| Total Inventories | <u>304</u> | <u>347</u> | <u>304</u> | <u>347</u> |

During the year the Department was required to write-off \$1,166 (\$1,643 in 2006-07) of inventory due to stock being damaged or stolen.

| | Department 2008 \$'000 | Department 2007 \$'000 | Group 2008 \$'000 | Group 2007 \$'000 |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 10. Property, Plant and Equipment | | | | |
| Land | | | | |
| At Fair Value | 11 136 | 11 396 | 11 136 | 11 396 |
| Buildings | | | | |
| At Fair Value | 146 524 | 142 865 | 146 524 | 142 865 |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation | (52 740) | (49 308) | (52 740) | (49 308) |
| | 93 784 | 93 557 | 93 784 | 93 557 |
| Infrastructure | | | | |
| At Fair Value | 29 621 | 26 609 | 29 621 | 26 609 |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation | (12 708) | (11 991) | (12 708) | (11 991) |
| | 16 913 | 14 618 | 16 913 | 14 618 |
| Construction (Work in Progress) | | | | |
| At Capitalised Cost | - | 59 | - | 59 |
| | - | 59 | - | 59 |
| Plant and Equipment | | | | |
| At Cost | 6 844 | 5 948 | 6 846 | 5 948 |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation | (3 979) | (3 132) | (3 979) | (3 132) |
| | 2 865 | 2 816 | 2 867 | 2 816 |
| Leased Plant and Equipment | | | | |
| At Capitalised Cost | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation | (30) | (30) | (30) | (30) |
| | - | - | - | - |
| Heritage and Cultural Assets | | | | |
| At Fair Value | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation | (8) | (7) | (8) | (7) |
| | 27 | 28 | 27 | 28 |
| Computer Equipment | | | | |
| At Fair Value | 596 | 602 | 596 | 602 |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation | (575) | (556) | (575) | (556) |
| | 21 | 46 | 21 | 46 |
| Transport Equipment Assets | | | | |
| At Fair Value | 2 839 | 2 754 | 2 839 | 2 754 |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation | (1 593) | (1 459) | (1 593) | (1 459) |
| | 1 246 | 1 295 | 1 246 | 1 295 |
| Intangibles – Computer Software | | | | |
| At Fair Value | 62 | 62 | 62 | 62 |
| Less: Accumulated Amortisation | (48) | (31) | (48) | (31) |
| | 14 | 31 | 14 | 31 |
| Total Property, Plant and Equipment | 126 006 | 123 846 | 126 008 | 123 846 |

Impairment of Property, Plant and Equipment

Department property, plant and equipment assets were assessed for impairment as at 30 June 2008. No impairment adjustments were required as a result of this review.

10. Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)**Property, Plant and Equipment Reconciliations**

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2007-08 and 2006-07 is set out below:

| 2008 | Land | Buildings | Infra-structure | Construction (Work in Progress) | Plant & Equipment | Leased Plant & Equipment | Transport Equipment | Heritage & Cultural | Computer Equipment | Intangibles | Total |
|--|---------------|------------------|------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Carrying Amount as at 1 July 2007 | 11 396 | 93 557 | 14 618 | 59 | 2 816 | - | 1 295 | 28 | 46 | 31 | 123 846 |
| Additions | - | 46 | - | 39 | 477 | - | 115 | - | 6 | - | 683 |
| Disposals | - | - | - | - | (2) | - | (10) | - | - | - | (12) |
| Depreciation and Amortisation | - | (3 432) | (717) | - | (802) | - | (151) | (1) | (31) | (17) | (5 151) |
| Additions/(Disposals) from Asset Transfers | (260) | 3 613 | 3 012 | (98) | 376 | - | (3) | - | - | - | 6 640 |
| Carrying Amount as at 30 June 2008 | 11 136 | 93 784 | 16 913 | - | 2 865 | - | 1246 | 27 | 21 | 14 | 126 006 |
| 2007 | Land | Buildings | Infra-structure | Construction (Work in Progress) | Plant & Equipment | Leased Plant & Equipment | Transport Equipment | Heritage & Cultural | Computer Equipment | Intangibles | Total |
| | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Carrying Amount as at 1 July 2006 | 9 926 | 95 629 | 14 990 | 44 | 1 948 | 2 | 1 358 | 15 | 113 | 18 | 124 043 |
| Additions | - | - | 106 | 15 | 586 | - | 80 | 13 | - | 27 | 827 |
| Depreciation and Amortisation | - | (3 362) | (697) | - | (600) | (2) | (143) | - | (67) | (14) | (4 885) |
| Additions from Asset Transfers | 1 470 | 1 290 | 220 | - | 882 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 862 |
| Other – Rounding | - | - | (1) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | (1) |
| Carrying Amount as at 30 June 2007 | 11 396 | 93 557 | 14 618 | 59 | 2 816 | 0 | 1 295 | 28 | 46 | 31 | 123 846 |

| | Department 2008 \$'000 | Department 2007 \$'000 | Group 2008 \$'000 | Group 2007 \$'000 |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 11. Payables | | | | |
| Accounts Payable | 2 430 | 3 394 | 2 494 | 3 394 |
| Accrued Expenses | 3 915 | 2 697 | 3 927 | 2 697 |
| | <u>6 345</u> | <u>6 091</u> | <u>6 421</u> | <u>6 091</u> |
| 12. Provisions | | | | |
| Current | | | | |
| Employee Benefits | | | | |
| Recreation Leave | 4 204 | 4 001 | 4 204 | 4 001 |
| Leave Loading | 741 | 775 | 741 | 775 |
| Other Employee Benefits (Recreation Leave Fares) | 197 | 210 | 197 | 210 |
| Other Current Provisions | | | | |
| Other Provisions (Fringe Benefits, Payroll Tax and Superannuation) | 856 | 649 | 869 | 649 |
| | <u>5 998</u> | <u>5 635</u> | <u>6 011</u> | <u>5 635</u> |
| Non-Current | | | | |
| Employee Benefits | | | | |
| Recreation Leave | 2 659 | 2 491 | 2 659 | 2 491 |
| Total Provisions | <u>8 657</u> | <u>8 126</u> | <u>8 670</u> | <u>8 126</u> |
| Reconciliations of Provisions ^(a) | | | | |
| Balance as at 1 July 2007 | 8 126 | 7 230 | 8 126 | 7 230 |
| Additional Provisions Recognised | 6 002 | 6 218 | 6 015 | 6 218 |
| Reductions Arising from Payments | (5 471) | (5 322) | (5 471) | (5 322) |
| Balance as at 30 June 2008 | <u>8 657</u> | <u>8 126</u> | <u>8 670</u> | <u>8 126</u> |

The Department has 688 full time equivalent employees as at 30 June 2008 (693 full time equivalent employees as at 30 June 2007).

| | Department 2008 \$'000 | Department 2007 \$'000 | Group 2008 \$'000 | Group 2007 \$'000 |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 13. Other Liabilities | | | | |
| Current | | | | |
| Deposits held for Natural Heritage Trust | 9 236 | 13 559 | 9 236 | 13 559 |
| Other Liabilities – Accountable Officer's Trust Account and Clearing | 901 | 360 | 901 | 360 |
| Accounts | 460 | 2 | 460 | 2 |
| Unearned Revenue | 460 | 2 | 460 | 2 |
| | 10 597 | 13 921 | 10 597 | 13 921 |
| 14. Equity | | | | |
| Equity represents the residual interest in the net assets of the Department. The Government's ownership interest in Department is held in the Central Holding Authority as described in note 2(b). | | | | |
| CAPITAL | | | | |
| Balance as at 1 July | 135 023 | 130 412 | 135 023 | 130 412 |
| Equity Injections | | | | |
| Capital Appropriation | 640 | 520 | 640 | 520 |
| Equity Transfers In | 8 821 | 4 091 | 8 821 | 4 091 |
| Other Equity injection | 5 973 | - | 5 973 | - |
| Balance as at 30 June | 150 457 | 135 023 | 150 457 | 135 023 |
| RESERVES | | | | |
| Asset Revaluation Reserve | | | | |
| The asset revaluation reserve includes the net revaluation increments and decrements arising from the revaluation of non-current assets. Impairment adjustments may also be recognised in the Asset Revaluation Reserve. | | | | |
| Balance as at 1 July | 535 | 535 | 535 | 535 |
| Increment/(Decrement) | - | - | - | - |
| Balance as at 30 June | 535 | 535 | 535 | 535 |
| Accumulated Funds | | | | |
| Balance as at 1 July | (11 397) | (7 453) | (10 968) | (7 453) |
| (Deficit) for the Period | (5 171) | (3 944) | (2 510) | (3 515) |
| Balance as at 30 June | (16 568) | (11 397) | (13 478) | (10 968) |

| | Department 2008 \$'000 | Department 2007 \$'000 | Group 2008 \$'000 | Group 2007 \$'000 |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 15. Notes to the Cash Flow Statement | | | | |
| Reconciliation of Cash | | | | |
| The total of Department Cash and Deposits of \$30.517 million recorded in the Balance Sheet is consistent with that recorded as 'cash' in the Cash Flow Statement. | | | | |
| Reconciliation of Net Surplus/(Deficit) to Net Cash From Operating Activities | | | | |
| Net (Deficit) | (5 171) | (3 944) | (2 510) | (3 515) |
| Non-Cash Items: | | | | |
| Depreciation and Amortisation | 5 151 | 4 885 | 5 151 | 4 885 |
| Asset Write-Offs/Write-Downs | 4 | 5 | 4 | 5 |
| Repairs and Maintenance Non Cash | 1 264 | 262 | 1 264 | 262 |
| Loss/(Gain) on Disposal of Assets | 6 | (6) | 6 | (6) |
| Assets acquired at nil value | - | (17) | - | (17) |
| Changes in Assets and Liabilities: | | | | |
| (Increase) in Receivables and Accrued Revenue | (502) | (795) | (1 082) | (130) |
| Decrease/(Increase) in Inventories | 42 | (292) | 42 | (292) |
| Decrease/(Increase) in Prepayments | 107 | (400) | 107 | (400) |
| Increase in Payables | 254 | 2 832 | 330 | 2 832 |
| Increase in Provision for Employee Benefits | 324 | 592 | 324 | 592 |
| Increase in Other Provisions | 207 | 303 | 220 | 303 |
| (Decrease) in Borrowings and Advances | - | (2) | - | (2) |
| Increase/(Decrease) in Other Liabilities | 458 | (4) | 458 | (4) |
| Net Cash From Operating Activities | 2 144 | 3 419 | 4 314 | 4 513 |

16. Financial Instruments

A financial instrument is a contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Financial instruments held by the Department include cash and deposits, receivables, payables and finance leases. The Department has limited exposure to financial risks as discussed below.

(a) Credit Risk

The Department has limited credit risk exposure (risk of default). The nature of the Department's revenue is such that if the debtor was to default on the debt it would cause them to suffer a business impact through the discontinuing of licences etc to meet their financial obligations. Primarily the Department's credit risk comes from the regulatory work performed on behalf of landholders (i.e. firebreaks). In these instances if a debt is not settled the Department has the ability, and does, take a lein over the property whereby the debt will be settled on sale of the property.

The carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the financial statements, net of any allowances for losses, represents the Department's maximum exposure to credit risk without taking account of the value of any collateral or other security obtained.

(b) Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the entity will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due.

The Department's liquidity risk includes credit cards with a potential monthly exposure of \$2.7 million representing 28 days of administrative expenditure capacity. This risk is managed by tight control on the issue and maintenance of credit cards and regular review and reporting.

The tables on the following page detail the undiscounted cash flows payable by the Agency by remaining contractual maturity for its financial liabilities. It should be noted that as these are undiscounted, totals may not reconcile to the carrying amounts presented in the Balance Sheet.

Maturity Analysis for Financial Liabilities

| | 1 Year \$'000 | 2 Year \$'000 | Carrying Amount |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 2008 – Financial Liabilities | | | |
| Deposits Held | 10 137 | - | 10 137 |
| Payables | 6 345 | - | 6 345 |
| Provisions | 5 998 | 2 659 | 8 657 |
| Other Liabilities | 460 | - | 460 |
| Total Financial Liabilities: | 22 940 | 2 659 | 25 599 |
| 2007 – Financial Liabilities | | | |
| Deposits Held | 13 919 | - | 13 919 |
| Payables | 6 091 | - | 6 091 |
| Provisions | 5 635 | 2 491 | 8 126 |
| Other Liabilities | 2 | - | 2 |
| Total Financial Liabilities: | 25 647 | 2 491 | 28 138 |

16. Financial Instruments cont.**(c) Market Risk**

Market risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The primary market risk that the entity is exposed to is interest rate risk.

The entity has limited interest rate risk as all financial assets and financial liabilities, with the exception of deposits held, are non-interest bearing. The exposure to interest rate risk on financial assets and financial liabilities is set out in the following table.

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Variable rate instruments | | |
| Financial assets | 9 236 | 13 559 |
| Financial liabilities | - | - |
| Total | 9 236 | 13 559 |

(d) Net Fair Value

The carrying amount of financial assets and financial liabilities recorded in the financial statements approximates their respective net fair values. Where differences exist, these are not material.

| | Department 2008 \$'000 | Department 2007 \$'000 | Group 2008 \$'000 | Group 2007 \$'000 |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 17. Commitments | | | | |
| (i) Other Expenditure Commitments | | | | |
| Other non-cancellable expenditure commitments not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows: | | | | |
| Within one year | 5 117 | 4 405 | 7 933 | 4 405 |
| (ii) Operating Lease Commitments | | | | |
| The Department leases property under non-cancellable operating leases expiring from 1 to 5 years. Leases generally provide the Department with a right of renewal at which time all lease terms are renegotiated. The Department also leases items of plant and equipment under non-cancellable operating leases. Future operating lease commitments not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows: | | | | |
| Within one year | 81 | 56 | 81 | 56 |
| Later than one year and not later than five years | 127 | 78 | 127 | 78 |
| | 208 | 134 | 208 | 134 |

18. Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

(a) Contingent Liabilities

Details of current or pending litigation against the Department or the Territory is not disclosed on the basis that disclosure may adversely affect the outcome of any current or future litigation.

(b) Contingent Assets

The Department had no contingent assets as at 30 June 2008.

19. Events Subsequent to Balance Sheet

No events have arisen between the end of the financial year and the date of this report that require adjustment to, or disclosure in these financial statements.

20. Accountable Officer's Trust Account

In accordance with section 7 of the *Financial Management Act*, an Accountable Officer's Trust Account has been established for the receipt of money to be held in trust. A summary of activity is shown below:

| Nature of Trust Money | Opening Balance 1 July 2007 | Receipts | Payments | Closing Balance 30 June 2008 |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------------------------|
| Bond money | 12 | 34 | 36 | 10 |
| Security deposits | 78 | 6 | 26 | 58 |
| Other money | 79 | 810 | 787 | 102 |
| | 169 | 850 | 849 | 170 |

21. Write-offs, Postponements and Waivers

Write-offs, Postponements and Waivers Under the *Financial Management Act*

Represented by:

Amounts written off, waived and postponed by Delegates

Public property written off

| Department / Group | | Department / Group | | Territory Items | | Territory Items | |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 2008 \$'000 | No. of Trans. | 2007 \$'000 | No. of Trans. | 2008 \$'000 | No. of Trans. | 2007 \$'000 | No. of Trans. |
| 5 | 394 | 4 | 521 | - | - | - | - |

Waiver or postponement of right to receive or recover money or property

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 1 | 5 | 8 | - | - | - | - |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Total written off, waived and postponed by Delegates

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|------------|----------|------------|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 395 | 9 | 529 | - | - | - | - |
|----------|------------|----------|------------|---|---|---|---|

Amounts written off, waived and postponed by the Treasurer

Losses or deficiencies of money written off

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| - | - | 4 | 1 | - | - | - | - |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Total written off, waived and postponed by the Treasurer

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|----------|----------|---|---|---|---|
| - | - | 4 | 1 | - | - | - | - |
|---|---|----------|----------|---|---|---|---|

22. Schedule of Territory Items

The following Territory items are managed by the *Department* on behalf of the Government and are recorded in the Central Holding Authority (refer note 2(b)).

TERRITORY INCOME AND EXPENSES

Income

| | Department 2008 \$'000 | Department 2007 \$'000 | Group 2008 \$'000 | Group 2007 \$'000 |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Fees from Regulatory Services | 28 | 34 | 28 | 34 |
| Royalties and Rents | 3 563 | 3 544 | 3 563 | 3 544 |
| Fines | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| Total Income | <u>3 592</u> | <u>3 578</u> | <u>3 592</u> | <u>3 578</u> |

Expenses

| | | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Central Holding Authority Income Transferred | 3 592 | 3 578 | 3 592 | 3 578 |
| Total Expenses | <u>3 592</u> | <u>3 578</u> | <u>3 592</u> | <u>3 578</u> |
| Territory Income less Expenses | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |

TERRITORY ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Assets

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Royalties and Rent Receivable | 643 | 58 | 643 | 58 |
| Other Receivable | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| Total Assets | <u>644</u> | <u>58</u> | <u>644</u> | <u>58</u> |

Liabilities

| | | | | |
|--|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Central Holding Authority Income Payable | 644 | 58 | 644 | 58 |
| Total Liabilities | <u>644</u> | <u>58</u> | <u>644</u> | <u>58</u> |
| Net Assets | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |

23. Variation to the Treasurer's Annual Financial Statement

Group financial information incorporated into the Treasurer's Annual Financial Report (TAFR) differs to that provided in these financial statements.

The Group deficit differs by \$0.03 million from the TAFR. The amounts recorded against income and expenses will show a variance of (\$2.2) million. This reflects the elimination of intra Group income and expense transactions associated with the delivery of natural resource management activities.

| | Group Financial Statements | Treasurer's Annual Financial Statement | Variance |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Operating Statement: | | | |
| INCOME | | | |
| Grants and Subsidies Revenue | | | |
| Current | 21 721 | 23 337 | 1 616 |
| Sales of Goods and Services | 3 954 | 4 548 | 594 |
| | 25 675 | 27 885 | 2 210 |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Employee Expenses | 51 954 | 52 462 | 508 |
| Administrative Expenses | | | |
| Purchases of Goods and Services | 34 718 | 34 804 | 86 |
| Grants and Subsidies Expenses | | | |
| Current | 18 359 | 19 949 | 1 590 |
| | 105 031 | 107 215 | 2 184 |
| NET DEFICIT | (2 510) | (2 484) | 26 |
| Balance Sheet | | | |
| ASSETS | | | |
| Receivables | 2 718 | 2 745 | 27 |

Territory Wildlife Parks Financial Statement Overview

For the Year Ended 30 June 2008

This section of the report provides an overview of the financial activities of the Territory Wildlife Parks for the year ended 30 June 2008.

Territory Wildlife Parks is a Government Business Division (GBD) responsible for managing the Territory Wildlife Park at Berry Springs and the Alice Springs Desert Park. As a GBD the Territory Wildlife Parks are required to pay the full cost of resources used (including tax equivalents), set efficient prices based on costs, and operate under appropriate commercial accounting and management structures.

Both Parks showcase the Northern Territory's unique fauna and flora in a natural environment that is inviting and interesting for visitors. The Parks contribute to Northern Territory tourism by providing quality tourism destinations. They support the preservation of biodiversity through breeding rare and threatened plants and animals. The Parks enhance the education of visitors, especially children, to improve environmental responsibility through the provision of high quality interpretive displays of the natural environment of the Northern Territory.

Income Statement

The Income Statement provides information on the financial performance of the GBD during the year.

In 2007-08, the GBD made a loss of \$2.1 million compared to a loss of \$1.7 million for the same period last year. This was reflected in a loss in Territory Wildlife Park of \$1.1 million, and a loss in the Alice Springs Desert Park of \$1 million. This is primarily attributed to the increase in depreciation and employee expenses, offset by the increase in revenue.

| Income Statement Summary | TWP 2007-08 \$'000 | ASDP 2007-08 \$'000 | Total 2007-08 \$'000 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Revenue | 5 481 | 5 079 | 10 560 |
| Expenses | 6 569 | 6 054 | 12 623 |
| Net Loss | (1 088) | (975) | (2 063) |

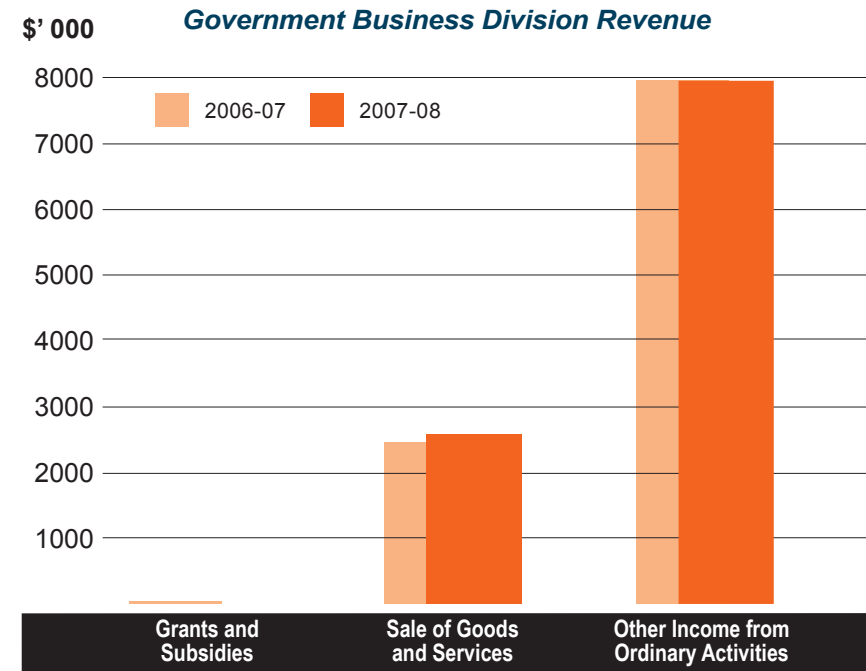
Revenue – Where the Dollars Came From

The GBD received revenue of \$10.6 million in 2007-08, an increase of \$0.1 million over the prior year. The following graph illustrates the sources of revenue for the Parks.

Sales of goods and services revenue of \$2.6 million includes admission fees to the Parks, sales through the café and gift shop at the Territory Wildlife Park, and rental income from the business trading within the Alice Springs Desert Park. Increased sales of goods and services income in 2007-08 was due to the café and gift shop which was operated in-house from the end of 2006. This increase was offset in part by a decrease in visitor numbers (151 675 in 2007-08 from 161 660 in 2006-07).

In 2007-08 the GBD received a Community Service Obligation (CSO) payment of \$7.9 million from the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts. A CSO arises when the Government requires a Government Business Division such as the Territory Wildlife Parks, to carry out activities it would not elect to do on a commercial basis or would only do at higher commercial prices. CSOs allow the Government to achieve identifiable community or social objectives which would not be achieved if outcomes were purely commercially delivered.

The non-commercial functions carried out by the GBD are tourism industry support, biodiversity conservation, and education.

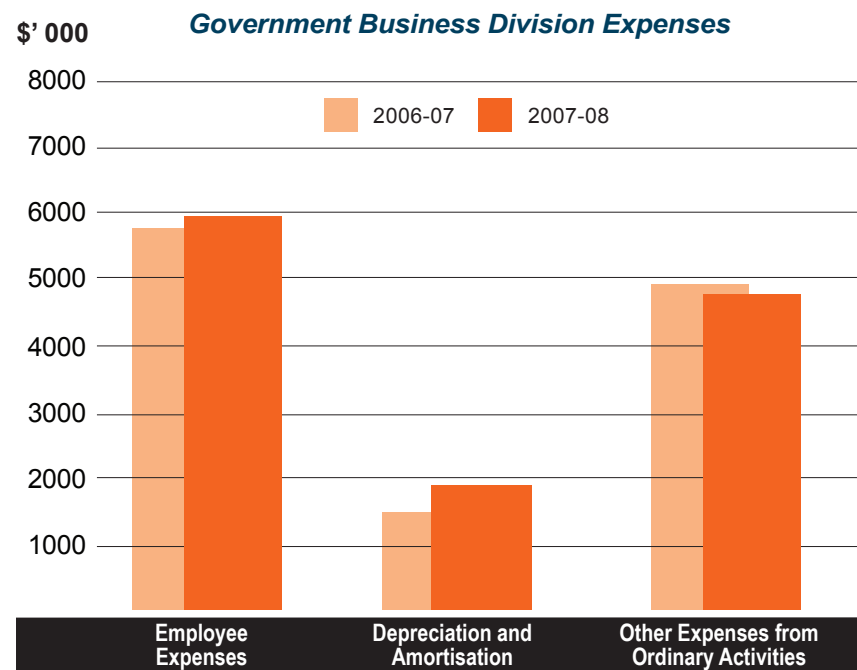


Expenses – Where the Dollars Were Spent

Operating the GBD in 2007-08 gave rise to expenses of \$12.6 million, an increase of \$0.5 million over the prior year. The graph shows that major expenses for the year were payments to employees and expenditure associated with ordinary activities.

Employee expenses increased by \$0.2 million or 3.5 percent compared to the prior year. This is attributed to a pay increase for all employees as negotiated under the 2008 Northern Territory Public Sector Workplace Agreement. Depreciation expenses increased by \$0.4 million or 30 percent compared to the prior year as a direct result of the revaluation of assets in June 2007.

Other expenses from ordinary activities comprise repairs and maintenance, property management, and the purchase of goods and services. These expenses decreased by \$0.1 million or 3 percent compared to the prior year.



Balance Sheet

The balance sheet provides information on the GBD's financial position at the end of the financial year by disclosing total assets, liabilities and equity.

Assets – What We Own

The GBD has total assets worth \$37.1 million as at 30 June 2008 representing a decrease of \$1.5 million over the previous year. The decrease is due primarily to \$1.9 million of depreciation on assets during the year.

Liabilities – What We Owe

The GBD's total liabilities were \$1.5 million as at 30 June 2008. The net increase in liabilities of \$0.3 million over the prior year reflects an increase of \$0.1 million in payables and provisions of \$0.2 million at the end of the financial year.

Provisions for employee entitlements include recreation leave, recreation leave fares, fringe benefits and payroll tax.

Our Equity – What We are Worth

Equity is the GBD's net worth, that is, 'what we own' (total assets of \$37.1 million), less 'what we owe' (total liabilities of \$1.5 million). Equity as at 30 June 2008 was \$35.6 million, a decrease of \$1.8 million over the previous year.

Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement extends the information outlined in the Income Statement and the Balance Sheet by summarising the nature and amount of cash flowing into and out of the GBD during for the year.

| Cash Flow Statement Summary | 2007-08 \$'000 | 2006-07 \$'000 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Net Cash from Operating Activities | 119 | (320) |
| Net Cash Used in Investing Activities | (139) | (169) |
| Net Cash from Financing Activities | 5 | 24 |
| Net Decrease in Cash Held | (15) | (465) |
| Cash at Beginning of Reporting Period | 781 | 1 246 |
| Cash at End of Reporting Period | 766 | 781 |

At 30 June 2008 the GBD's cash balances were \$0.02 million lower than the prior year (30 June 2007). This is reflective of operating receipts being \$0.12 million higher than the operating costs of the GBD, cash received from tax deductible donations of \$0.01 million and \$0.14 million spent on the purchase of assets.

Certification of the Financial Statements

We certify that the attached financial statements for Territory Wildlife Parks have been prepared from proper accounts and records in accordance with the prescribed format, the *Financial Management Act* and Treasurer's Directions.

We further state that the information set out in the Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement, and notes to and forming part of the financial statements, presents fairly the financial performance and cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2008 and the financial position on that date.

At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render the particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



.....
Jim Grant
Chief Executive
30 September 2008



.....
Susan Kirkman
Chief Financial Officer
30 September 2008

**Auditor-General****Independent Auditor's Report to
the Minister for Parks and Wildlife****Territory Wildlife Parks****Year Ended 30 June 2008**

I have audited the accompanying financial report of the Territory Wildlife Parks, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2008, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

The Responsibility of the Chief Executive for the Financial Report

The Chief Executive of the Agency is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations). This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Chief Executive of the Agency, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Territory Wildlife Parks as of 30 June 2008, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations).

F. McGuinness

Auditor-General for the Northern Territory
Darwin, Northern Territory
9 October 2008

Level 12 Northern Territory House 22 Mitchell Street Darwin 0800 Tel: 08 8999 7155 Fax: 08 8999 7144

Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2008

| | Note | 2008 \$'000 | 2007 \$'000 |
|---|------|----------------|----------------|
| INCOME | | | |
| Grants and Subsidies Revenue | | | |
| Current | | 19 | 28 |
| Sales of Goods and Services | | 2 568 | 2 445 |
| Other Income From Ordinary Activities | | 7 973 | 7 945 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 3 | <u>10 560</u> | <u>10 418</u> |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Employee Expenses | | 5 963 | 5 761 |
| Depreciation and Amortisation | 8 | 1 895 | 1 461 |
| Other Expenses From Ordinary Activities | 4 | 4 765 | 4 896 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | | <u>12 623</u> | <u>12 118</u> |
| NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) | 11 | <u>(2 063)</u> | <u>(1 700)</u> |

The Income Statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2008

| | Note | 2007 \$'000 | 2006 \$'000 |
|--------------------------------------|------|----------------------|----------------------|
| ASSETS | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Cash and Deposits | 5 | 766 | 781 |
| Receivables | 6 | 193 | 167 |
| Inventories | 7 | 26 | 43 |
| Prepayments | | 117 | 117 |
| Total Current Assets | | <u>1 102</u> | <u>1 108</u> |
| Non-Current Assets | | | |
| Property, Plant and Equipment | 8 | <u>36 011</u> | <u>37 516</u> |
| Total Non-Current Assets | | <u>36 011</u> | <u>37 516</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | <u><u>37 113</u></u> | <u><u>38 624</u></u> |
| LIABILITIES | | | |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Deposits Held | | 29 | 24 |
| Payables | 9 | 547 | 399 |
| Provisions | 10 | <u>710</u> | <u>559</u> |
| Total Current Liabilities | | <u>1 286</u> | <u>982</u> |
| Non-Current Liabilities | | | |
| Provisions | 10 | <u>183</u> | <u>183</u> |
| Total Non-Current Liabilities | | <u>183</u> | <u>183</u> |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | | <u><u>1 469</u></u> | <u><u>1 165</u></u> |
| NET ASSETS | | <u><u>35 644</u></u> | <u><u>37 459</u></u> |
| EQUITY | | | |
| Capital | | 15 170 | 14 922 |
| Reserves | | 24 365 | 24 365 |
| Accumulated Funds | | <u>(3 891)</u> | <u>(1 828)</u> |
| TOTAL EQUITY | 11 | <u><u>35 644</u></u> | <u><u>37 459</u></u> |

The Balance Sheet is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2008

| | Note | 2008 \$'000 | 2007 \$'000 |
|---------------------------------------|------|----------------|----------------|
| BALANCE OF EQUITY AT 1 JULY | | <u>37 459</u> | <u>31 486</u> |
| Capital | 11 | | |
| Balance at 1 July | | <u>14 922</u> | <u>14 511</u> |
| Equity Injections | | <u>248</u> | <u>411</u> |
| Balance at 30 June | | 15 170 | 14 922 |
| Reserves | 11 | | |
| Balance at 1 July | | <u>24 365</u> | <u>17 103</u> |
| Increase in Asset Revaluation Reserve | | <u>-</u> | <u>7 262</u> |
| Balance at 30 June | | 24 365 | 24 365 |
| Accumulated Funds | 11 | | |
| Balance at 1 July | | <u>(1 828)</u> | <u>(128)</u> |
| (Deficit) for the Period | | <u>(2 063)</u> | <u>(1 700)</u> |
| Balance at 30 June | | (3 891) | (1 828) |
| BALANCE OF EQUITY AT 30 JUNE | | <u>35 644</u> | <u>37 459</u> |

This Statement of Changes in Equity is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 30 June 2008

| | Note | 2008 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows | 2007 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows |
|---|------|--|--|
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Operating Receipts | | | |
| Grants and Subsidies Received | | | |
| Community Service Obligation | | 7 915 | 7 834 |
| Current | | 19 | 28 |
| Receipts From Sales of Goods And Services | | 2 988 | 3 136 |
| Interest Received | | 55 | 74 |
| Total Operating Receipts | | <u>10 977</u> | <u>11 072</u> |
| Operating Payments | | | |
| Payments to Employees | | (5 796) | (5 777) |
| Payments for Goods and Services | | (5 062) | (5 615) |
| Total Operating Payments | | <u>(10 858)</u> | <u>(11 392)</u> |
| Net Cash from/(Used In) Operating Activities | 12 | <u>119</u> | <u>(320)</u> |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Investing Payments | | | |
| Purchases of Assets | 8 | <u>(139)</u> | <u>(169)</u> |
| Total Investing Payments | | <u>(139)</u> | <u>(169)</u> |
| Net Cash (Used In) Investing Activities | | <u>(139)</u> | <u>(169)</u> |
| CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Financing Receipts | | | |
| Deposits Received | | <u>5</u> | <u>24</u> |
| Total Financing Receipts | | <u>5</u> | <u>24</u> |
| Net Cash From Financing Activities | | <u>5</u> | <u>24</u> |
| Net (Decrease) in Cash Held | | (15) | (465) |
| Cash at Beginning of Financial Year | | <u>781</u> | <u>1 246</u> |
| CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR | 5 | <u>766</u> | <u>781</u> |

The Cash Flow Statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Index of Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Objectives and Funding
2. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

INCOME

3. Income

EXPENSES

4. Purchases of Goods and Services

ASSETS

5. Cash and Deposits
6. Receivables
7. Inventories
8. Property, Plant and Equipment

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10. Provisions

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OTHER DISCLOSURES

12. Notes to the Cash Flow Statement
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14. Commitments
15. Community Service Obligations
16. Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets
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18. Segment Information
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Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Objectives and Funding

Territory Wildlife Parks is a Government Business Division responsible for managing the Territory Wildlife Park at Berry Springs and the Alice Springs Desert Park. Also refer to note 15. A key responsibility of both Parks is to showcase the Northern Territory's unique fauna and flora in a natural environment that is both inviting and interesting for the visiting public.

Territory Wildlife Parks established under the *Financial Management Act (1995)* is subject to the direction of the Minister for Parks and Wildlife. Territory Wildlife Parks is partially funded by Northern Territory Government in recognition that it carries out activities on a non-commercial basis. Such partial funding is termed 'Community Service Obligation' and this funding is reflected in the Income Statement.

These financial statements are prepared on a "going concern" basis in the expectation that such funding will continue.

2. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Financial Management Act* and related Treasurer's Directions. The *Financial Management Act* requires Territory Wildlife Parks to prepare financial statements for the year ended 30 June based on the form determined by the Treasurer. The form of Government Business Division financial statements is to include:

- (i) a Certification of the Financial Statements;
- (ii) an Income Statement;
- (iii) a Balance Sheet;
- (iv) a Statement of Changes in Equity;
- (v) a Cash Flow Statement; and

(vi) applicable explanatory notes to the financial statements.

The form of the Territory Wildlife Parks financial statements is consistent with the accrual budget format and the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards, including AASB 107. The format also requires additional disclosures specific to Territory Government entities.

The financial statements have been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting, which recognises the effect of financial transactions and events when they occur, rather than when cash is paid out or received. As part of the preparation of the financial statements, all internal Territory Wildlife Parks transactions and balances have been eliminated.

Except where stated, the financial statements have also been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

Adoption of new and revised Accounting Standards

At the date of authorisation of the financial report, Standard AASB 101 'Presentation of Financial Statements' - revised September 2007 was in issue but not yet effective. The Standard is effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2009.

Initial application of the Standard will not affect any of the amounts recognised in the financial report, but will change the disclosures presently made in relation to the Board and its financial report.

(b) Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information for the 2006-07 financial year has been reclassified to provide consistency with current year disclosures.

(c) Presentation and Rounding of Amounts

Amounts in the financial statements and notes to the financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars, with amounts of less than \$500 being rounded down to zero.

(d) Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes to accounting policies adopted in 2007-08 as a result of management decisions.

(e) Goods and Services Tax

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of Goods and Services Tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred on a purchase of goods and services is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office (ATO). In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as part of receivables or payables in the Balance Sheet.

Cash flows are included in the Cash Flow Statement on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are classified as operating cash flows. Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable or payable unless otherwise specified.

(f) Taxation

The entity is required to pay income tax on its accounting profit, excluding extraordinary items, at the company rate of 30 per cent in accordance with the requirements of the Treasurer's Directions and the Northern Territory Tax Equivalent Regime. The entity does not have a present income tax liability as it has incurred a loss for income tax purposes and has not taken to account any future income tax benefits arising from this loss as the potential future income tax benefit is not certain.

The future income tax benefits will only be realised if:

- (i) the entity derives future assessable income of a nature and amount sufficient to enable the benefit to be realised;
- (ii) the entity continues to comply with the conditions for deductibility imposed by the Treasurer's Directions; and
- (iii) there are no changes to the Northern Territory Tax Equivalent Regime that adversely affects the entity.

The tax loss to be carried forward is \$10.197 million (\$8.134 million in 2007).

(g) Income Recognition

Income encompasses both revenue and gains.

Income is recognised at the fair value of the consideration received, exclusive of the amount of goods and services tax (GST). Exchanges of goods or services of the same nature and value without any cash consideration being exchanged are not recognised as income.

Grants and Other Contributions

Grants, donations, gifts and other non-reciprocal contributions are recognised as revenue when the entity obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions. Control is normally obtained upon receipt.

Contributions are recognised at their fair value. Contributions of services are only recognised when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would be purchased if not donated.

Sale of Goods

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised (net of returns, discounts and allowances) when control of the goods passes to the customer and specified conditions associated with the sale have been satisfied.

Rendering of Services

Revenue from rendering services is recognised on a stage of completion basis.

Interest Revenue

Interest revenue is recognised as it accrues, taking into account the effective yield on the financial asset.

Community Service Obligation Funding

Community Service Obligation funding is received from the Northern Territory Government when an entity is required to carry out activities on a non-commercial basis. Revenue in respect of this funding is recognised in the period in which the entity gains control of the funds.

Disposal of Assets

A gain or loss on disposal of assets is included as a gain or loss on the date control of the asset passes to the buyer, usually when an unconditional contract of sale is signed. The gain or loss on disposal is calculated as the difference between the carrying amount of the asset at the time of disposal and the net proceeds on disposal.

Contributions of Assets

Contributions of assets and contributions to assist in the acquisition of assets, being non-reciprocal transfers, are recognised, unless otherwise determined by Government, as gains when Territory Wildlife Parks obtains control of the asset or contribution.

Contributions are recognised at the fair value received or receivable.

(h) Repairs and Maintenance Expenses

Costs associated with repairs and maintenance works on the entity's assets are expensed as incurred.

(i) Interest Expenses

Interest expenses include interest and finance lease charges. Interest expenses are expensed in the period in which they are incurred.

(j) Cash and Deposits

For the purposes of the Balance Sheet and the Cash Flow Statement, cash includes cash on hand, cash at bank and cash equivalents. Cash equivalents are highly liquid short-term investments that are readily convertible to cash.

(k) Inventories

General inventories are all inventories other than those held for distribution and are carried at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost of inventories includes all costs associated with bringing the inventories to their present location and condition. When inventories are acquired at no or nominal consideration, the cost will be the current replacement cost at date of acquisition.

Inventories held for distribution are those inventories distributed at no or nominal consideration, and are carried at the lower of cost and current replacement cost.

(l) Receivables

Receivables include accounts receivable and other receivables and are recognised at fair value less any allowance for impairment losses.

The allowance for impairment losses represents the amount of receivables the GBD estimates are likely to be uncollectible and are considered doubtful. Analysis of the age of the receivables that are past due as at the reporting date are disclosed in an aging schedule in Note 8. Reconciliation of changes in the allowance accounts is also presented.

Accounts receivable and other receivables are generally settled within 30 days.

(m) Property, Plant and Equipment**Acquisitions**

All items of property, plant and equipment with a cost, or other value, equal to or greater than \$5 000 are recognised in the year of acquisition and depreciated as outlined below. Items of property, plant and equipment below the \$5 000 threshold are expensed in the year of acquisition.

The construction cost of property, plant and equipment includes the cost of materials and direct labour, and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

Complex Assets

Major items of plant and equipment comprising a number of components that have different useful lives, are accounted for as separate assets. The components may be replaced during the useful life of the complex asset.

Subsequent Additional Costs

Costs incurred on property, plant and equipment subsequent to initial acquisition are capitalised when it is probable that future economic benefits in excess of the originally assessed performance of the asset will flow to the Territory Wildlife Parks in future years. Where these costs represent separate components of a complex asset, they are accounted for as separate assets and are separately depreciated over their expected useful lives.

Construction (Work in Progress)

As part of *Financial Management Framework*, the Northern Territory Department of Planning and Infrastructure is responsible for managing general government capital works projects on a whole of Government basis. Therefore appropriation for most of Territory Wildlife Parks' capital works is provided directly to the Northern Territory Department of Planning and Infrastructure and the cost of construction work in progress is recognised as an asset of that Department. Once completed, capital works assets are transferred to the entity.

Revaluations

The entity obtains an independent valuation of its property every three years with the recent revaluation completed by 30 June 2007. The following classes of non-current assets are revalued with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount of these assets does not differ materially from their fair value at reporting date:

- Buildings; and
- Infrastructure Assets.

Fair value is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged, or liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arms length transaction. Other classes of non-current assets are not subject to revaluation and are measured at cost.

Depreciation and Amortisation

Items of property, plant and equipment, including buildings but excluding land, have limited useful lives and are depreciated or amortised using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives.

The estimated useful lives for each class of asset are in accordance with the Treasurer's Directions and are determined as follows:

| Asset | 2008 | 2007 |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Buildings | 20-50 Years | 20-50 Years |
| Infrastructure Assets | 10 Years | 10 Years |
| Plant and Equipment | 5 Years | 5 Years |
| Computer Hardware | 3-6 Years | 3-6 Years |
| Transport Equipment | 5 Years | 5 Years |

Assets are depreciated from the date of acquisition or from the time an asset is completed and held ready for use. Assets may be constructed internally, acquired assets may have modifications and accessories installed, and equipment may be calibrated and tested, affecting the date the asset is held ready for use.

Impairment of Assets

An asset is said to be impaired when the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount.

Non current physical and intangible entity assets are assessed for indicators of impairment on an annual basis. If an indicator of impairment exists, the entity determines the asset's recoverable amount. The asset's recoverable amount is determined as the higher of the asset's depreciated replacement cost and fair value less costs to sell. Any amount by which the entity's carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount is recorded as an impairment loss.

Impairment losses are recognised in the Income Statement unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount. Where the asset is measured at a revalued amount, the impairment loss is offset against the Asset Revaluation Reserve for that class of asset to the extent that an available balance exists in the Asset Revaluation Reserve.

In certain situations, an impairment loss may subsequently be reversed. Where an impairment loss is subsequently reversed, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised in the Income Statement as income, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment reversal results in an increase in the Asset Revaluation Reserve. Note 11 provides additional information in relation to Asset Revaluation Reserve.

(n) Leased Assets

Leases under which the Territory Wildlife Parks assumes substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset are classified as finance leases. Other leases are classified as operating leases. The entity does not have any assets under a finance lease.

Operating Leases

Operating lease payments made at regular intervals throughout the term are expensed when the payments are due, except where an alternative basis is more representative of the pattern of benefits to be derived from the leased property.

(o) Payables

Liabilities for accounts payable and other amounts payable are carried at cost which is the fair value of the consideration to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the Territory Wildlife Parks. Accounts payable are normally settled within 30 days.

(p) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for employee benefits accumulated as a result of employees rendering services up to the reporting date. These benefits include wages and salaries and recreation leave. Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries and recreation leave and other employee benefit liabilities that fall due within twelve months of reporting date are classified as current liabilities and are measured at amounts expected to be paid. Non-current employee benefit liabilities that fall due after twelve months of the reporting date are measured at present value, calculated using the Government long term bond rate.

No provision is made for sick leave, which is non-vesting, as the anticipated pattern of future sick leave to be taken is less than the entitlement accruing in each reporting period.

Employee benefit expenses are recognised on a net basis in respect of the following categories:

- wages and salaries, non-monetary benefits, recreation leave, sick leave and other leave entitlements; and
- other types of employee benefits.

As part of the *Financial Management Framework*, the Central Holding Authority assumes the long service leave liabilities of Government Business Divisions including Territory Wildlife Parks, and as such no long service leave liability is recognised in the entity's financial statements.

(q) Superannuation

Employees' superannuation entitlements are provided through the:

- Northern Territory Government and Public Authorities Superannuation Scheme (NTGPASS);
- Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS); or
- non-government employee nominated schemes for those employees commencing on or after 10 August 1999.

The entity makes superannuation contributions on behalf of its employees to the Central Holding Authority or non-government employee nominated schemes. Superannuation liabilities related to government superannuation schemes are held by the Central Holding Authority and as such are not recognised in the entity's financial statements.

(r) Dividends

The entity has not provided for a dividend.

(s) Commitments

Disclosures in relation to capital and other commitments, including lease commitments are shown at note 14 and are consistent with the requirements contained AASB 116 and AASB 117.

Commitments are those contracted as at 30 June where the amount of the future commitment can be reliably measured.

| | 2008 \$'000 | 2007 \$'000 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| 3. Income | | |
| Sale of Goods and Services From Ordinary Activities | 2 568 | 2 445 |
| Current Grant Revenue | 19 | 28 |
| | <hr/> 2 587 | <hr/> 2 473 |
| <i>Other Income:</i> | | |
| Community Service Obligations – Note 15 | 7 915 | 7 834 |
| NT Treasury Interest | 53 | 73 |
| Miscellaneous Revenue | 1 | 38 |
| Assets Acquired Below Fair Value | 4 | - |
| | <hr/> 7 973 | <hr/> 7 945 |
| Total Income | <hr/> 10 560 | <hr/> 10 418 |

| | 2008 \$'000 | 2007 \$'000 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| 4. Purchases of Goods and Services | | |
| The net surplus/(deficit) has been arrived at after charging the following expenses: | | |
| Goods and Services Expenses: | | |
| Consultants ⁽¹⁾ | 7 | 32 |
| Marketing and Promotion ⁽²⁾ | 203 | 231 |
| Document Production | 10 | 11 |
| Recruitment ⁽³⁾ | 47 | 25 |
| Training and Study | 41 | 31 |
| Official Duty Fares | 40 | 70 |
| Travelling Allowance | 20 | 25 |
| Audit and Other Services | 18 | 18 |
| Corporate Support by External Agencies | 613 | 675 |
| Operating Lease Rental Expense | 4 | 5 |
| Repairs and Maintenance | 631 | 632 |
| Property Management | 819 | 767 |
| Motor Vehicles | 498 | 499 |
| Information Technology Expenses | 281 | 283 |
| (1) Includes marketing, promotion and IT consultants. | | |
| (2) Includes advertising for marketing and promotion but excludes marketing and promotion consultants' expenses, which are incorporated in the consultants' category. | | |
| (3) Includes recruitment related advertising costs. | | |
| 5. Cash and Deposits | | |
| Cash on Hand | 22 | 37 |
| Cash at Bank | 744 | 744 |
| | <u>766</u> | <u>781</u> |

| | 2008 \$'000 | 2007 \$'000 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| 6. Receivables | | |
| Current | | |
| Accounts Receivable | 100 | 53 |
| Less: Allowance for Impairment Losses | (5) | (5) |
| | 95 | 48 |
| Interest Receivables | 4 | 5 |
| GST Receivables | 62 | 75 |
| Other Receivables | 32 | 39 |
| Total Receivables | <u>193</u> | <u>167</u> |
| Aging of Receivables | | |
| Not Overdue | 179 | 163 |
| Overdue for less than 30 Days | 6 | 3 |
| Overdue for 30 to 60 Days | 8 | - |
| Overdue for more than 60 Days | 5 | 6 |
| Total Gross Receivables | <u>198</u> | <u>172</u> |
| Aging of Impaired Receivables | | |
| Impaired Receivables for more than 60 Days | (5) | (5) |
| Total Impaired Receivables | <u>(5)</u> | <u>(5)</u> |
| Reconciliation of the Allowance for Impairment Losses | | |
| Allowance for Impairment Losses at the Beginning of the Reporting Period | 5 | 11 |
| Amounts written off during the year | - | (5) |
| Amounts recovered during the year | - | - |
| Increase/(decrease) in allowance recognised in profit or loss | - | (1) |
| Allowance for Impairment Losses at the End of the Reporting Period | <u>5</u> | <u>5</u> |
| 7. Inventories | | |
| General Inventories | | |
| At cost | 26 | 43 |
| Total Inventories | <u>26</u> | <u>43</u> |

| | 2008 \$'000 | 2007 \$'000 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| 8. Property, Plant and Equipment | | |
| Buildings | | |
| At Fair Value | 40 609 | 40 596 |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation | (19 173) | (18 232) |
| | <u>21 436</u> | <u>22 364</u> |
| Infrastructure | | |
| At Fair Value | 27 961 | 27 719 |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation | (13 664) | (12 740) |
| | <u>14 297</u> | <u>14 979</u> |
| Construction (Work in Progress) | | |
| At Capitalised Cost | 20 | 25 |
| | <u>20</u> | <u>25</u> |
| Plant and Equipment | | |
| At Cost | 1 547 | 1 405 |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation | (1 314) | (1 292) |
| | <u>233</u> | <u>113</u> |
| Computer Hardware | | |
| At Cost | 45 | 50 |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation | (22) | (19) |
| | <u>23</u> | <u>31</u> |
| Transport Equipment | | |
| At Cost | 6 | 6 |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation | (4) | (2) |
| | <u>2</u> | <u>4</u> |
| Total Property, Plant and Equipment | <u>36 011</u> | <u>37 516</u> |

Property, Plant and Equipment Valuations

An independent valuation of buildings and infrastructure assets was undertaken by the Australian Valuation Office (AVO) as at 30 June 2007. The fair value of these assets was determined based on any existing restrictions on asset use. Where reliable market values were not available, the fair value of entity assets was based on their depreciated replacement cost.

Impairment of Property, Plant and Equipment

The Territory Wildlife Parks property, plant and equipment asset were assessed for impairment as at 30 June 2008. No impairment adjustments were required as a result of this review.

| | 2008 \$'000 | 2007 \$'000 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| 8. Property, Plant and Equipment cont. | | |
| Property, Plant and Equipment Reconciliations | | |
| A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current and previous financial year are set out below: | | |
| Buildings | | |
| Carry Amount at Beginning of Year | 22 364 | 18 736 |
| Additions | - | 94 |
| Depreciation | (941) | (746) |
| Additions From Asset Transfers | 26 | 287 |
| Disposal From Asset Transfers | (13) | - |
| Revaluation Increments | - | 3 993 |
| Carry Amount at End of Year | <u>21 436</u> | <u>22 364</u> |
| Infrastructure | | |
| Carry Amount at Beginning of Year | 14 979 | 12 265 |
| Depreciation | (923) | (689) |
| Additions From Asset Transfers | 241 | 123 |
| Revaluation Increments | - | 3 280 |
| Carry Amount at End of Year | <u>14 297</u> | <u>14 979</u> |
| Construction (Work in Progress) | | |
| Carrying Amount at Beginning of Year | 25 | - |
| Additions | 1 | 25 |
| Additions from asset transfers | 19 | - |
| Transfer to building asset | (25) | - |
| Carrying Amount at end of Year | <u>20</u> | <u>25</u> |

| | 2008 \$'000 | 2007 \$'000 |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| 8. Property, Plant and Equipment cont. | | |
| Plant and Equipment | | |
| Carry Amount at Beginning of Year | 113 | 130 |
| Additions | 138 | 17 |
| Depreciation | (22) | (23) |
| Additions From Asset Transfers | 4 | - |
| Revaluation (Decrements) | - | (11) |
| Carry Amount at End of Year | <u>233</u> | <u>113</u> |
| Computer Hardware | | |
| Carry Amount at Beginning of Year | 31 | - |
| Additions | - | 33 |
| Depreciation | (8) | (2) |
| Carry Amount at End of Year | <u>23</u> | <u>31</u> |
| Transport Equipment | | |
| Carry Amount at Beginning of Year | 4 | 5 |
| Depreciation | (2) | (1) |
| Additions From Asset Transfers | - | - |
| Carry Amount at End of Year | <u>2</u> | <u>4</u> |
| Total Property, Plant and Equipment | <u>36 011</u> | <u>37 516</u> |
| 9. Payables | | |
| Accounts Payable | 355 | 284 |
| Accrued Expenses | 192 | 115 |
| | <u>547</u> | <u>399</u> |

| | 2008 \$'000 | 2007 \$'000 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| 10. Provisions | | |
| Current | | |
| Employee Benefits | | |
| Recreation Leave | 431 | 390 |
| Leave Loading | 90 | 106 |
| Recreation Leave Fares | 1 | 1 |
| Other Current Provisions | | |
| Other Provisions (Fringe Benefits, Payroll Tax and Superannuation) | 188 | 62 |
| | <u>710</u> | <u>559</u> |
| Non-Current | | |
| Employee Benefits | | |
| Recreation Leave | 183 | 183 |
| | <u>183</u> | <u>183</u> |
| Total Provisions | <u>893</u> | <u>742</u> |
| 11. Equity | | |
| CAPITAL | | |
| Balance as at 1 July | 14 922 | 14 511 |
| Equity Injections | | |
| Equity Transfers In | 248 | 411 |
| Balance as at 30 June | 15 170 | 14 922 |
| RESERVES | | |
| Asset Revaluation Reserve | | |
| <i>(i) Nature and Purpose of the Asset Revaluation Reserve</i> | | |
| The asset revaluation reserve includes the net revaluation increments and decrements arising from the revaluation of non-current assets. Impairment adjustments may also be recognised in the Asset Revaluation Reserve. | | |
| <i>(ii) Movements in the Asset Revaluation Reserve</i> | | |
| Balance as at 1 July | 24 365 | 17 103 |
| Revaluation increment | - | 7 262 |
| Balance as at 30 June | 24 365 | 24 365 |
| ACCUMULATED FUNDS | | |
| Balance as at 1 July | (1 828) | (128) |
| (Deficit) for the Period | (2 063) | (1 700) |
| Balance as at 30 June | (3 891) | (1 828) |

12. Notes to the Cash Flow Statement**Reconciliation of Cash**

The total of Territory Wildlife Parks cash and deposits recorded in the Balance Sheet is consistent with that recorded as 'cash' in the Cash Flow Statement.

Reconciliation of Net (Deficit) to Net Cash From Operating Activities**Net (Deficit)**

Assets acquired at below fair value

Non-Cash Items:

 Depreciation and Amortisation

Changes in Assets and Liabilities:

 Decrease/(Increase) in Receivables

 Decrease/(Increase) in Prepayments

 Decrease/(Increase) in Inventories

 (Decrease)/Increase in Payables

 (Decrease)/Increase in Doubtful Debts

 (Decrease)/Increase in Provision for Employee Benefits

 (Decrease)/Increase in Other Provisions

Net Cash from/(used in) Operating Activities

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Net (Deficit) | (2 063) | (1 700) |
| Assets acquired at below fair value | (3) | |
| Non-Cash Items: | | |
| Depreciation and Amortisation | 1 895 | 1 461 |
| Changes in Assets and Liabilities: | | |
| Decrease/(Increase) in Receivables | (26) | 184 |
| Decrease/(Increase) in Prepayments | - | (117) |
| Decrease/(Increase) in Inventories | 17 | (39) |
| (Decrease)/Increase in Payables | 148 | (93) |
| (Decrease)/Increase in Doubtful Debts | - | (6) |
| (Decrease)/Increase in Provision for Employee Benefits | 25 | 56 |
| (Decrease)/Increase in Other Provisions | 126 | (66) |
| Net Cash from/(used in) Operating Activities | 119 | (320) |

13. Financial Instruments

A financial instrument is a contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Financial instruments held by the Territory Wildlife Parks include cash and deposits, receivables, payables and finance leases. The Territory Wildlife Parks has limited exposure to financial risks as discussed below.

(a) Credit Risk

The entity has limited credit risk exposure (risk of default). In respect of any dealings with organisations external to Government, the entity has adopted a policy of only dealing with credit worthy organisations and obtaining sufficient collateral or other security where appropriate, as a means of mitigating the risk of financial loss from defaults.

The carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the financial statements, net of any allowances for losses, represents the entity's maximum exposure to credit risk without taking account of the value of any collateral or other security obtained.

(b) Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the entity will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Territory Wildlife Parks experiences seasonal fluctuations of its business and is receives a Community Service Obligation payment (refer to note 15). Territory Wildlife Parks liquidity risk is comprised by credit cards with a potential monthly exposure of \$0.5 million representing 21 days of expenditure capacity. The Balance Sheet indicates that the Territory Wildlife Parks has a liquidity risk and is reliant on Government guarantee.

| | 1 Year \$'000 | 2 Year \$'000 | Carrying Amount |
|--|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Maturity Analysis for Financial Liabilities | | | |
| 2008 – Financial Liabilities | | | |
| Deposits Held | 29 | - | 29 |
| Payables | 547 | | 547 |
| Provisions | 710 | 183 | 893 |
| Total Financial Liabilities: | 1 286 | 183 | 1 469 |
| 2007 – Financial Liabilities | | | |
| Deposits Held | 24 | - | 29 |
| Payables | 399 | - | 547 |
| Provisions | 559 | 183 | 742 |
| Total Financial Liabilities: | 982 | 183 | 1 165 |

(c) Market Risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The primary market risk that the entity is exposed to is interest rate risk.

The entity has no exposure to interest rate risk as all financial assets and financial liabilities with the exception of cash at bank are non-interest bearing. The exposure to interest rate risk on financial assets and financial liabilities is set out in the following table.

| | 2008 \$'000 | 2007 \$'000 |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Variable rate instruments | | |
| Financial assets | 744 | 744 |
| Financial Liabilities | - | - |
| Total | 744 | 744 |

(d) Net Fair Value

The carrying amount of financial assets and financial liabilities recorded in the financial statements approximates their respective net fair values. Where differences exist, these are not material.

14. Commitments**Non-cancellable Operating Lease Expense Commitments**

Future operating lease commitments not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:

| | 2008 \$'000 | 2007 \$'000 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Within one year | 9 | 9 |
| Later than one year and not later than five years | 6 | 15 |
| | <u>15</u> | <u>24</u> |

15. Community Service Obligations

Community Service Obligation received

| | 2008 \$'000 | 2007 \$'000 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Community Service Obligation received | <u>7 915</u> | <u>7 834</u> |

There are four non-commercial functions carried out by the parks. These are Tourism Industry Support, Biodiversity, Education and Botanical Gardens Management at the Alice Springs Desert Park.

16. Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets**(a) Contingent liabilities**

Details of current or pending litigation against the entity or the Territory are not disclosed on the basis that disclosure may adversely affect the outcome of any current or future litigation.

(b) Contingent assets

The entity had no contingent assets as at 30 June 2008.

17. Events Subsequent to Balance Date

No events have arisen between the end of the financial year and the date of this report that require adjustment to, or disclosure in these financial statements.

18. Segment Information

| Business Segments | Territory Wildlife Park | | Alice Springs Desert Park | | Entity | |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2008 \$'000 | 2007 \$'000 | 2008 \$'000 | 2007 \$'000 | 2008 \$'000 | 2007 \$'000 |
| Revenue | 5 481 | 5 009 | 5 079 | 5 409 | 10 560 | 10 418 |
| Profit/(Loss) from Ordinary Activities | (1 088) | (1 315) | (975) | (385) | (2 063) | (1 700) |
| Net Non-current Assets | 18 992 | 19 871 | 17 019 | 17 645 | 36 011 | 37 516 |
| Unallocated Assets | - | - | - | - | 1 102 | 1 108 |
| Unallocated Liabilities | - | - | - | - | (1 469) | (1 165) |

19. Write Offs, Postponements and Waivers

| Write offs, postponements and waivers under the <i>Financial Management Act</i> | 2008 | No. of | 2007 | No. of |
|--|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| | \$'000 | Trans. | \$'000 | Trans. |
| Represented by: | | | | |
| Public Property written off | - | 3 | - | - |
| Irrecoverable amounts payable to the entity written off | - | - | 5 | 73 |
| Total written off, waived and postponed by Delegates | - | 3 | 5 | 73 |

Appendixes



Grants Program

The Department distributed more than \$6 million worth of grants in 2007-08. The Department's grant recipients include art organisations, schools, natural resource management, biodiversity conservation and environment community groups.

The following list contains all grants the Department currently administers.

For more information on these programs go to www.nt.gov.au/nreta/grants

| Arts Grants Program | Who can apply | Funding limit | Frequency |
|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Quick Response Scheme offers up to \$1,500 to support professional development opportunities and/or arts projects that cannot be applied to within the project rounds due to their time critical nature | Individuals, groups, organisations | Up to \$1,500 for one grant per financial year | All year round |
| Professional Development is supported through the Quick Response Scheme as it is not available through the project rounds | Individuals only | Up to \$1,500 per grant, to a max. of \$2,000 per financial year | All year round |
| Arts Development is to support projects across all art forms for the research, development or creation of new work or community cultural development projects | Individuals, groups, organisations | Up to \$15,000 | 15 October 2008, 15 March 2008 |
| Presentation and Promotion is for the support of projects which either present, exhibit, distribute or promote Northern Territory arts practice | Individuals, groups, organisations | Up to \$15,000 | 15 October 2008, 15 March 2008 |
| Remote Festivals Fund is for the support of remote community festivals, to establish and/or develop artistic programming and initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts Programming • Festival Development | Groups, organisations | Up to \$15,000 | 28 February 2008 |
| Public Art is for support towards the development and creation of artistic work in public places <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development • Small Works • Medium Works • Major Work | Individuals, groups, organisations, business/companies | \$ 60,000 \$ 10,000 \$ 20,000 \$150,000 | 15 March 2008 |
| Declan Apatimi/J Bird Public Art Fellowship supports professional development opportunities for contemporary artists to achieve innovation and excellence in public art practice | Practicing professional NT artists | \$20,000 | 15 March 2008 |
| Public Art support the development and creation of artistic work in public places <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development • Small Works | Individuals, groups, organisations, business/companies | \$ 60,000 \$ 10,000 | 15 October 2008 |
| Key Arts Organisations supports organisations in contributing to the Northern Territory's cultural, social and economic development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triennial Funding • Annual Funding | Organisations | N/A | 31 July 2008 15 October 2008 (tbc) |

| Arts Grants Program | Who can apply | Funding limit | Frequency |
|--|---|---|----------------------|
| Arts Scholarship offers places for full time post secondary arts training in either an <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergraduate Degree • Diploma • Certificate level III (3) or IV (4) | Individuals | \$3,500/yr for 3 yrs \$700/ yr for 2 yrs \$500 for 1 year | 31 January 2008 |
| Artists in Schools (AiS) is a partnership between the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (NRETA) and the Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) | Schools | Up to \$5,000 | Annually in late May |
| NT Heritage Grant Program | Who can apply | Funding limit | Frequency |
| NT Heritage Grant Program for 2007-2008 supports organisations who are working on a project relating to a significant heritage site in the Northern Territory | Individuals, organisations | \$200,000 | 23 April 2008 |
| Regional Museums Grant Support Program | Who can apply | Funding limit | Frequency |
| Regional Museums Grant Support Program support projects involving: development of exhibits and displays; collection management policies; interpretation plans; strategic plans or disaster preparedness plans; accessioning and cataloguing of museum collections, including employment of contract curatorial staff or specialist services; storage and conservation of collections; training and professional development; and local community outreach work. | Community based and volunteer run regional museums and keeping places in the Northern Territory | N/A | 18 May 2008 |
| NT History Grants Program | Who can apply | Funding limit | Frequency |
| NT History Grants is designed to encourage research about the Territory's history | Individuals, groups | Up to \$7000 | 2 May 2008 |
| NT Film Grants Program | Who can apply | Funding limit | Frequency |
| Screen Grants April Round Project Funding is aimed at professional or emerging screen industry practitioners | Individuals, organisations | N/A | TBA for 2008 |
| Industry and Screen Culture Development supports industry and cultural development in the Northern Territory | Individuals, organisations | N/A | TBA for 2008 |
| Travel Grants assists with the cost of attending key training, professional development, conferences events or festivals. | Individuals, organisations | N/A | TBA for 2008 |

| EnvironmentNT Grants Program | Who can apply | Funding limit | Frequency |
|---|--|--|---------------|
| School Project Grants | | | |
| Re-thinking Energy-in-Schools provides assistance for schools wishing to purchase and install renewable energy equipment and to deliver education programs that demonstrate renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency issues | All NT Schools | Up to \$5,000 depending on school location | 28 April 2008 |
| School Environmental Education Projects for other environmental education activities and school based projects | All NT Schools | Up to \$2,000 | 28 April 2008 |
| Individual Project Grants | | | |
| Energy Efficiency supports projects that will reduce and/or promote efficient energy consumption (and greenhouse gas emissions) and can be used as demonstration models able to be implemented in similar organisations across the Territory | Community groups, industry and local government associations | Usually up to \$10,000 | 19 May 2008 |
| Re-thinking Waste supports projects that will develop the resource recovery (recycling) industry in the Territory and can be used as demonstration models able to be implemented in other communities across the Territory | Community groups, industry and local government associations | Usually up to \$10,000 | 19 May 2008 |
| Water Conservation supports projects that will improve water management in the Territory and can be used as demonstration models for wider application in the Territory | Community groups, industry and local government associations | Usually up to \$10,000 | 19 May 2008 |
| Environmental Management / Stewardship develops and documents environmental management projects that can be used to demonstrate best practice approaches in the Territory | Community groups, industry and local government associations | Usually up to \$10,000 | 19 May 2008 |
| Environmental Education / Capacity Building supports projects that deliver awareness-raising, skill building and training activities to the wider NT community | Community groups, industry and local government associations | Usually up to \$10,000 | 19 May 2008 |
| Wildlife supports projects that manage pest animals, promotes sustainable use of wildlife, rehabilitate habitats, threatened species or prevent spread of invasive species | Community groups, industry and local government associations | Usually up to \$10,000 | 19 May 2008 |
| Operational Grants | | | |
| Operational Grants support key non-profit organisations delivering environmental services to the community | Non-profit organisations | Up to \$80,000 (3 yearly terms) | 28 April 2008 |

Statutory Authorities and Bodies as at 30 June 2008

Barranyi (North Island) National Park Local Management Committee

The committee is a statutory body under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* and Barranyi (North Island) Local Management Committee Regulations. The committee assists the Parks and Wildlife Commission to manage Barranyi (North Island) National Park.

Chairman: Mr Phillip Timothy

Members: Mr Neil Bradley
Ms Adrienne Friday
Ms Annie Isaccs
Ms Kathy Jupiter
Ms Stephanie Jupiter
Ms Roxanne Jupiter

Bushfires Council of the Northern Territory

The Council is established by the *Bushfires Act*, and is subject to the direction of the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage. It has a legislated responsibility to advise the Minister on bushfire prevention and control in the Territory, including policy and issues affecting the operational efficiency and strategic direction of bushfire management.

Members represent rural landowners and managers of pastoral, horticultural and agricultural enterprises in the Territory and representatives from the Bureau of Meteorology, Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service, CSIRO and the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines provide professional input.

The Bushfires Council and Regional Committees expired at the end of the statutory three year term in late April 2008. In March 2008 the Council and Committees agreed that some redistribution of the regional boundaries was warranted and revised the number of regions down to six. These six new regions and their committees were not finalised at June 30 2008.

Chairman: Mr Brian Hill

Members: Mr Bruce Sawyer
Mrs Dianne Tynan
Mr Peter Cooke
Mr Donald Roebuck
Mr Otto Campion
Mr Thomas Stockwell
Mr Andrew Tupper
Mr Ian Bradford
Mr Gary Riggs

Bushfires Committees – Regional

The Northern Territory is divided into ten fire control regions that reflect varying land use, population density, climate, soil and vegetation type. A bushfires committee represents each region and the six members are selected on local knowledge, experience or skills in bushfire management. Its main statutory function is the prevention and control of wildfires in its fire control regions. There is a Regional Fire Control Officer (RFCO) on each committee. The committees are statutory bodies in their own right and have a high degree of autonomy in establishing operational and administrative policies.

Alice Springs East

Chairman: Mr David (Stewart) Weir

Members: Mr David Bird
Mr Ben Hayes
Mr Edward Hayes
Mr Donald Costello

RFCO: Vacant

Alice Springs West

Chairman: Mr Ashley Severin

Members: Mr Walter Braitling
Mr Douglas Simms
Mr Roy Chisholm
Mr Thomas Keith

RFCO: Mr Rod Cantlay

Arafura

Chairman: Mr Ian Bradford
Members: Mr Douglas McKean
 Mr Brian Muir
 Mr Warren Clarris
RFCO: Mr Rob Moloney

Arnhem

Chairman: Mr Otto Campion
Members: Mrs Jessie Alderson
 Mr George Djanggawangga
 Mr Bobby Nunggumajbar
 Mr Djawa Yunipingu
 Ms Sybil Ranch
RFCO: Mr Michael Carter

Barkly

Chairman: Mr John Mora
Members: Mr Ernest Holt
 Mr Stephen Peatling
 Mr David Mylrea
A/RFCO: Mr Troy Munckton

Elliot / Wauchope

Chairman: Mr Peter Saint
Members: Mr Ian Rush
 Mr Ken Ford
 Mr Benjamin Wratten
 Mr Geoffrey Murrell
RFCO: Mr Brian Dohnt

Gulf

Chairman: Mr Thomas Stockwell
Members: Mr Keith Holzwart
 Mr Felix O'Brien
 Mr Edward Webber
 Mr Karl Roth
RFCO: Mr Bob White

Katherine

Chairman: Mr Gary Riggs
Members: Ms Sarah Kerin
 Mr Allan Thompson
 Mr Robert Wright
 Mr Preston Lee
RFCO: Mr Adrian Creighton

Vernon

Chairman: Mr Donald Roebuck
Members: Mr David McLachlan
 Mr Andrew Firley
 Mr Ian Stewart
 Mr Eric Shuker
RFCO: Mr John Whatley

Victoria River

Chairman: Mr Alexander McColm
Members: Mr Allan Andrews
 Mr Steven Craig
 Mr Russell Teece
 Mr Mark Neilsen
A/RFCO: Mr Adam Redpath

Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary and Marine Park Board

The Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary and Marine Park Board is a statutory body under section 8 of the *Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land and Sanctuary Act*. Its purpose is to jointly manage Garig Gunak Barlu National Park.

Deputy Chair: Mr Stephen Fejo

Members: Mr Kenny Wauchope
 Mr Ronnie Ngundiwuy
 Mr William Flaherty
 Dr Barry Russell
 Mr David West
 Mr Edward Williams
 Mr John de Koning

Conservation Land Corporation

The Conservation Land Corporation is a statutory body established under part IV section 30 of the *Parks and Wildlife Commission Act*. Its purpose is to acquire, hold and dispose real and personal property in accordance with the Act.

Chairman: Mr Willem Goedegebuure

Members: Mr Alistair Shields
 Mr Col Fuller
 Dr David Ritchie

Djukbinj National Park Local Management Committee

The Djukbinj National Park Local Management Committee is a statutory body under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* and the Djukbinj National Park Local Management Committee Regulations. Its purpose is to assist the Commission in the management of the Djukbinj National Park.

Chairman: Mr David Kenyon

Members: Ms Joan Kenyon
Mr Brian Kenyon
Mrs Lynette Kenyon
Mr Bill Panton
Mr David West

Drillers Qualification Advisory Committee

This Committee is established under the *Water Act* and is an advisory group with expertise in the waterwell drilling industry. The committee provides advice to the Controller of Water Resources on the granting, renewal and variation of drilling licenses.

Chairman: Mr Brian Kunde

Members: Mr Laurence Ah Toy
Mr Craig Oldfield
Mr Daryl Gibbons
Mr David George
Mr Chris MacHunter
Mr Richard Miller
Mr Kevin Sneyd

Environment Protection Authority

The Environment Protection Authority is an independent body established under the Territory's *Environment Protection Authority Act 2007*. It provides independent strategic and practical advice to government about ecologically sustainable development in the Northern Territory. This involves setting clear objectives, rules, standards and processes, developed in close consultation with business and the community, which reach across sectors, are scientifically defensible and which promote integration and efficiency.

Chairman: Dr Andrew Tupper

Members: Prof Donna Craig
Prof Gordon Duff
Ms Judith King

Heritage Advisory Council

The Heritage Advisory Council is a statutory body under section 7 of the *Heritage Conservation Act* and advises the Minister on declaration and management of heritage places.

Chairman: Dr Brian Reid

Members: Mr Gregory Coleman
Mr Andrew Allan
Ms Elizabeth Close
Mr David Curtis
Mr Allan Garraway
Dr Michelle Dewar
Ms Anna Malgorzewicz
Ms Susan Dugdale

Katherine Regional Weeds Advisory Committee

The Katherine Regional Weeds Advisory Committee was established under the *Weeds Management Act*. Its purpose is to advise the Minister on the progress of weed management in the Katherine region and to develop draft weed management plans.

Chairman: Mr Kevin Holzward

Members: Mr Micheal Crothers
Mr Graeme Fagan
Mr Brian Hill

Museums and Art Galleries Board

The Board was established under the *Museums and Art Galleries Act*. Their role is a trustee role in relation to the maintenance and development of collections, responsible for developing community involvement with MAGNT, and informing and making recommendations to the Minister regarding the capacity of MAGNT to meet its strategic goals. The MAGNT Board is also responsible for management of the *Meteorites Act* in the Northern Territory.

Chairman: Ms Apolline Kohen

Members: Mr Steven Eland
Ms Pip McManus
Mr Joe Morrison
Mr John Waters QC
Ms Anita Angel
Ms Libby Beath

Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park Board

The Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park Board is a statutory body under the *Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park Act*. Its purpose is the management of the Nitmiluk National Park.

A / Chairperson: Ms Lisa Mumbin

Members: Mr Ryan Baruwei
Ms Noeleen Andrews
Dr Greg Leach
Ms Lisa Mumbin
Mr Geoffrey Walla
Ms Anne Shepherd
Mr Eddie Webber
Mrs Nell Brown
Ms Mildred Brennan
Ms Jane Runyu-Fordimail

Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council

The Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council is established under the *Parks and Wildlife Commission Act 1999*. The Council is to comprise “persons who have an interest or expertise and knowledge in matters relating to the environment and the management and conservation of natural resources”. The role of the Council is to “advise the Parks and Wildlife Commission on matters concerning the management of parks and wildlife” (section 41).

Chairman: Mr Willem Goedegebuure

Members: Ms Penelope Figgis AO
Mr Robert Fox
Dr David Garnett
Mr Michael Jerram
Mr Matthew Ryan
Ms Jayne Weepers
Mr Djawa Yunupingu
Ms Anne-Marie Delahunt

Pastoral Land Board

The Pastoral Land Board was established under section 11 of the *Pastoral Land Act*. The board’s functions are outlined under section 29 of the *Pastoral Land Act*. These include monitoring of the condition of pastoral land, annual reports to the Minister, determination of applications to clear pastoral land, administration of non-pastoral uses, and recommendations to the Minister on applications to subdivide pastoral leases.

Chairman: Mr Tony Young

Members: Mr Steven Craig
Ms Colleen Costello
Mr Thomas Stockwell
Dr Mick Quirk

Rapid Creek Catchment Advisory Committee

The Rapid Creek Catchment Advisory Committee was established under the *Water Act*. Its purpose is to advise the Minister on the management of Rapid Creek Catchment.

Chairman: Mr Matthew Bonson MLA

Members: Mr John Bailey
Mr Kelvin Costello
Mr Dal Hartley
Mr Ian Kew
Ms Lesley Alford
Ms Joanne Manson
Ms Robyn Maurer
Ms Nerida Noble
Ms Liza Schenkel
Dr Simon Townsend

Strehlow Research Centre Board

The Strehlow Research Centre Board was established under section 9 of the *Strehlow Research Centre Act*. Its purpose is to: care for the collections of Central Australian cultural materials under its custody; assist researchers and the Aboriginal community to have culturally appropriate access to these collections; present displays and other interpretive material to the public; store culturally significant objects on behalf of Central Australian Indigenous people; and implement repatriation decisions. The Strehlow Research Centre Board consists of seven members.

Chairman: Mr Ross McDougall

Members: Dr Kathleen Strehlow
Mr Garry Stoll
Mr Glen Auricht
Mr Geoff Bagshaw
Dr Adrian Walter
Mr Ken Lechleitner

Ti Tree Water Advisory Committee

The Ti Tree Water Advisory Committee was established in 1997 to advise the Controller of Water Resources on allocation and management of groundwater resources in the Ti Tree Water Control District. Local horticulture, pastoral, Aboriginal and community interests are represented on the committee. The committee reports annually to the Minister.

Chairman: Vacant

Members: Mr Peter McKean
Mr Gary Dann
Mr Trevor Sowman
Mr Gavin Kahl
Mr Allan Cooney
Mr James Glenn
Ms Paula Hanson
Mr Mitchell Jones
Mr Richard Lomman

Tnorala Local Management Committee

The Tnorala Local Management Committee is a statutory body under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* and the Tnorala Local Management Committee Regulations. The committee's purpose is to advise and make recommendations on all matters relating to the management of the Tnorala Conservation Reserve.

Chairman: Mr Herman Malbunka

Members: Mr Andrew Bridges
Mr Chris Day
Mr Bevan Malbunka
Ms Lynette Malbunka
Ms Maxine Malbunka

External Committees and Boards

The Agency provides in-kind, secretariat and/or financial support to external committees and boards that work in conjunction with the Agency's core business. Some of these include:

Aboriginal Advisory Group on Access to Northern Territory Government Records

Members of the Aboriginal Advisory Group are nominated by the Stolen Generations community and family link-up services. The Advisory Group monitors the application of the Protocol for Aboriginal Access to Government Records by Aboriginal People Researching their Families and advises the government on related issues. The Advisory Group is administered by the Northern Territory Archives Service.

Alice Springs Water Advisory Committee

The purpose of this Committee is to advise the Controller of Water Resources on the effectiveness of the Alice Springs Water Resource Strategy in maximising economic and social benefits with ecological constraints and other matters. The Committee was established by the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage to consider and advise the Controller of Water Resources on such matters within the Alice Springs Water Control District as are referred to it by the Controller. Financial and in-kind support is provided to the Committee.

Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary and Marine Park Board

Members of the Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary and Marine Park Board are appointed by the Minister for Parks and Wildlife to prepare Plans of Management for the control and management of the sanctuary and/or marine park, determine the rights of access and ensure adequate protection of sites of spiritual or other importance in Aboriginal tradition. Secretariat and financial support is provided by the Agency.

Daly River Aboriginal Reference Group

Financial support is provided to the Northern Land Council to convene the Daly River Aboriginal Reference Group to provide Traditional Owners, and other Aboriginal stakeholders in the Daly region, with the opportunity to discuss and provide input into the work of the Daly River Management Advisory Committee and the Katherine Water Advisory Committee.

Daly River Management Advisory Committee

The Daly River Management Advisory Committee (DRMAC) was appointed by the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage in 2006 to work with relevant Northern Territory Government agencies to develop options for the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources within the Daly River region. Secretariat and financial support is provided by the Agency.

Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

Members of Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee are appointed by the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage. The Committee was established to oversee implementation of the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management and to advise the Minister on matters relating to the environment, planning and development of the Darwin Harbour Catchment. The Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee oversees two working groups: the Ecosystem Monitoring Group and the Ecosystem Research Group. Secretariat and financial support is provided by the Agency.

Interim Environment Protection Agency (EPA) Board (until 31 December 2007)

Members of the Environment Protection Agency Board were appointed by the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage to advise government about the form and function of a Northern Territory Environment Protection Agency. Secretariat and financial support was provided by the Agency.

Katherine Water Advisory Committee

The Katherine Water Advisory Committee was appointed by the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage in 2006 as a sub-committee of DRMAC. It advises government through the DRMAC on matters relating to the management of water resources within the Katherine Water Control District (WCD). Their initial focus is to advise government on the formulation of a Water Allocation Plan for the Tindal Limestone Aquifer within the Katherine WCD. Secretariat and financial support is provided by the Agency.

Marine Protected Areas Stakeholder Advisory Committee

This committee was formed to provide feedback on the development of the draft Northern Territory Marine Protected Areas Strategy and comprises stakeholders from fishing, conservation, mining, Aboriginal and other interests. The committee is currently considering drafts of key documents relevant to developing a Northern Territory Marine Protected Areas Strategy. Secretariat support is provided by the Agency.

Natural Resource Management Board (Northern Territory) Inc

The Natural Resources Management Board (NT) Inc has been established in order to implement a strategic approach to natural resource management throughout the Northern Territory Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan and Regional Investment Strategy, as agreed by the Northern Territory and Australian Governments. Secretariat support is provided by the Agency.

Nitmiluk Board of Management

The Agency's Parks Division, through the Parks and Wildlife Services, is responsible for the day-to-day management of Nitmiluk National Park under the direction of the Nitmiluk Board of Management. Secretariat support is provided by the Agency.

Northern Territory Arts Grants Board

The Northern Territory Arts Grants Board provides sector involvement in decision making relating to government arts grants, to ensure a more transparent, accountable and arms-length process for the allocation of Arts Grants project funding. The role of the Arts Grants Board is to assess project applications to the Northern Territory Arts Grants Program across all art forms and categories. Secretariat support is supplied by the Agency.

Northern Territory History Grants Committee

Members of the Northern Territory History Grants Committee are appointed by the Minister as required. The Committee assesses history grant applications each year and recommends grants to the Minister. The Committee is administered by the NT Archives Service.

Northern Territory Screen Grants Advisory Panel

This Panel provides industry expertise in decision making in relation to government screen grants, making the decision-making process more transparent. The members of the Screen Grants Advisory Panel are approved by the Minister. The Panel recommends all applications for project, industry and screen culture grants. Secretariat support is provided by the Agency.

Legislation Administered

The Agency is responsible for administering 42 pieces of legislation, with 23 Acts and 19 pieces of subordinate legislation, on behalf of the Ministers for Arts and Museums, Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage and Parks and Wildlife.

Bushfires Act

- Bushfires Regulations
- Bushfires (Volunteer Bushfire Brigades) Regulations

Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land, Sanctuary And Marine Park Act

- Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land And Sanctuary (Entry and Camping) By-Laws
- Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land, Sanctuary and Marine Park (Rehabilitation Areas) By-Laws

Environment Protection Authority Act

Environmental Assessment Act

- Environmental Assessment Administrative Procedures

Environmental Offences And Penalties Act 1996

Heritage Conservation Act

- Heritage Conservation Regulations

Litter Act

Meteorites Act

Museums And Art Galleries Act 1999

National Environment Protection Council (Northern Territory) Act

National Trust (Northern Territory) Act

- Rules Of The National Trust Of Australia (Northern Territory)

Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park Act

Nuclear Waste Transport, Storage And Disposal (Prohibition) Act 2004

Ozone Protection Act

- Ozone Protection Regulations

Parks And Wildlife Commission Act

Pastoral Land Act (except Part 8 administered by Department of Planning and Infrastructure)

Soil Conservation And Land Utilization Act

Strehlow Research Centre Act 2005

Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act

- Barranyi (North Island) Local Management Committee Regulations
- Djukbinj National Park Local Management Committee (Djukbinj Board) Regulations
- Flora River Local Management Committee Regulations
- Keep River National Park Local Management Committee Regulations
- Territory Parks And Wildlife Conservation By-Laws
- Territory Wildlife Park Management Committee Regulations
- Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Regulations
- Tnorala Local Management Committee Regulations

Waste Management and Pollution Control Act

- Waste Management And Pollution Control (Administration) Regulations
- Environment Protection (National Pollutant Inventory) Objective

Water Act

- Water Regulations

Weeds Management Act 2001

- Weeds Management Regulations 2006

Water Efficiency Labelling Standards Act 2006

New or Amended Legislation in 2007-08

Environment Protection Authority Act

- Act to establish the Environment Protection Authority, and for related purposes. Commenced in 2008.

Heritage Conservation Regulations

- The Heritage Conservation Amendment (Minor Work) Regulations 2007, allows minor work to heritage places to proceed without the need for a formal application.

Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act

- Act amended to enable new joint management provisions / arrangements to be on an equal footing with provisions in the *Parks and Reserves Framework for the Future Act*.
- Revised Divisions 4 and 5 of Part IV of the Act, dealing with feral animals and prohibited entrants, to align the legislation with the new 10 year Pest Animal Management Strategy.

Territory Parks And Wildlife Conservation By-Laws

- Amended the By-laws to identify regulatory offences, increase infringement notice penalties and increase the number of offences for which an infringement notice can be issued.

Capital Works Program

| | Program \$'000 | Revised Program \$'000 | Expended \$'000 | Revoted into 2007-08 \$'000 |
|--|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Capital Works – Department | | | | |
| REVOTED WORKS | | | | |
| Parks and Reserves | | | | |
| West MacDonnell National Park Development Stage 1: Upgrade and expand visitor facilities, including additional shade shelters, presentation area and ablution block | 197 | 212 | 212 | 0 |
| Channel Point: develop park infrastructure including a boat launching facility, camp ground, road, parking and interpretive display. | 347 | 373 | 373 | 0 |
| Channel Point: construct ranger office accommodation and secure storage facility | 71 | 39 | 39 | 0 |
| Nitmiluk National Park: Upgrade visitor access to Katherine Gorge at the first and second gorge crossovers | 1,000 | 973 | 973 | 0 |
| West MacDonnell National Park (Larapinta Trail): construct shelters, barbeques and toilet facilities on the larapinta Trail | 380 | 409 | 288 | 121 |
| Natural Resources | | | | |
| Mary River Wetlands: Construction and upgrading of weirs for salt water intrusion control | 30 | 30 | 30 | 0 |
| Total Revoted Works | 2025 | 2036 | 1915 | 121 |

| | Program \$'000 | Revised Program \$'000 | Expended \$'000 | Revoted into 2007-08 \$'000 |
|---|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| NEW WORKS | | | | |
| Parks and Reserves | | | | |
| Nitmiluk National Park: Construct new toilet block. | 460 | 460 | 401 | 59 |
| Leanyer Recreation Park: Stage 2 Development | 0 | 3000 | 238 | 2762 |
| Natural Resources | | | | |
| Mary River Wetlands: Construction and upgrading of weirs for salt water intrusion control | 500 | 483 | 483 | 0 |
| Total New Works | 960 | 3943 | 1122 | 2821 |
| TOTAL | 2985 | 5979 | 3037 | 2942 |

| | Program \$'000 | Revised Program \$'000 | Expended \$'000 | Revoted into 2007-08 \$'000 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Minor New Works – Department | | | | |
| REVOTED MINOR NEW WORKS | | | | |
| Parks and Reserves | 117 | 117 | 113 | 5 |
| Biological Parks | 133 | 133 | 133 | 0 |
| Natural Resources | 0 | 0 | 20 | 0 |
| Heritage Conservation | 214 | 214 | 193 | 0 |
| Arts and Screen Industry Support | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Scientific and Cultural Collections | 114 | 114 | 114 | 0 |
| Total Revoted Works | 578 | 578 | 573 | 5 |
| NEW MINOR NEW WORKS | | | | |
| Parks and Reserves | 880 | 880 | 562 | 119 |
| Biological Parks | 65 | 65 | 64 | 0 |
| Natural Resources | 203 | 503 | 310 | 212 |
| Heritage Conservation | 0 | 0 | 21 | 2 |
| Arts and Screen Industry Support | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| Scientific and Cultural Collections | 186 | 186 | 335 | 2 |
| Total New Works | 1334 | 1634 | 1299 | 335 |
| TOTAL | 1912 | 2212 | 1872 | 340 |

Minor New Works completed in 2007-08 for the Department***Parks and Reserves***

- Parks and Wildlife (Territory wide) - installed new and upgraded existing interpretive signage in National Parks
- Parks and Wildlife (Territory wide) - installed new and upgraded existing stock fencing in National Parks
- Palm Valley - upgraded the camping ground facilities
- Tom Hare Building - completed office modifications on the ground floor

Biological Parks

- George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens - replaced the rainforest boardwalk
- George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens - installed soft fall around play equipment

Natural Resources

- Biodiversity Conservation - installed security fencing
- Biodiversity Conservation - converted laboratory space to office
- Bushfires NT Depot, Batchelor - installed a VHF Antenna
- Bushfires NT (Territory wide) - installed bushfire advisory signage
- AZRI Depot Alice Springs - modified office accommodation and carried out dust suppression work
- Tennant Creek Depot - installed a chemical store
- Tannadice St Depot - upgraded the shed and installed sunshade
- Goyder Building - completed office modification on the ground and 4th floors

Heritage Conservation

- East Arm Leprosarium - constructed a memorial
- Darwin Plaza - completed office modifications
- Darwin Plaza - undertook energy efficiency upgrade of the lighting system

Scientific and Cultural Collections

- Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory - carried out minor energy reduction works
- Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory - upgraded the fixed exhibition lighting
- Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory - Installed new lighting and bollards in the grounds
- Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory - Installed security grills, roller doors and window treatment
- Old Court House - carried out internal painting, kitchen upgrade, replaced floor coverings and lighting
- Araluen Arts Centre - erected a glass wall around the exhibition space
- Museum of Central Australia - replaced the hinged doors on display cases

Arts and Screen Industry Support

- Browns Mart - reconfigured the layout in the Administrative Building

| | Program \$'000 | Revised Program \$'000 | Expended \$'000 |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Repairs and Maintenance - Department | | | |
| Parks and Reserves | 4,074 | 4,074 | 4,237 |
| Biological Parks | 250 | 250 | 268 |
| Natural Resources | 295 | 295 | 186 |
| Environment and Heritage | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,153 |
| Arts and Screen Industry Support | 2,023 | 2,023 | 309 |
| Scientific and Cultural Collections | 0 | 0 | 1,643 |
| TOTAL | 7,642 | 7,642 | 7,796 |

Note: non-cash repairs and maintenance expenditure (ie. expensing of capital works) of \$1,264 was also recognised during 2007-08.

Repairs and Maintenance Projects completed in 2007-08 for the Department

- Ewanninga Conservation Reserve - repaired the viewing platform
- East MacDonnell Ranges - refurbished bores in various locations
- Parks (Territory wide) - re-roofed shade structures and repaired and maintained signage, water supply systems, maintained solar systems, walking tracks, fire detection equipment in Ranger stations
- Parks - undertook extensive clean-up and repairs in Top End parks following Cyclone Helen
- Arltunga Historical Reserve - replaced well covers
- Watarrka National Park - repaired the damaged footbridge
- Litchfield National Park - carried out repairs at the Walker Creek Ranger Station, painting and repairs throughout the Park
- Leanyer Water Park - repaired Play Equipment and soft fall
- Howard Springs Nature Park - carried out repairs and maintenance on the water supply
- Casuarina Coastal Reserve - carried out repairs and painting throughout the park including the water reticulation system and park furniture
- Fogg Dam Ranger Station - repaired the 3 phase power supply and water supply
- Manton Dam - carried out repairs to the boardwalk
- Fogg Dam - carried out repairs to the boardwalk and pump shed
- Goyder Centre - carried out general repairs and replaced the UPS
- Cape Don Lighthouse Complex - repaired the plumbing and carried out repairs and maintenance on the housing
- Black Point Ranger Station - carried out termite treatment
- Nitmiluk National Park - carried out repairs and maintain on the water treatment system, replaced the irrigation pipe, created a new refuse disposal site, replaced two water tanks, repaired the swimming jetty and power supply.

- Elsey National Park - replaced furniture throughout the park, repaired the toilet at Mularark and the boardwalk and water pump at the Thermal Pool
- Flora River National Park - replaced drip line fencing and pine bollards, repaired the solar bore and reinstated the canoe portage
- Katherine Regional Office - replaced an air-conditioned and carried out general repairs including painting
- Gregory National Park - conducted aerial spraying and carried out general maintenance throughout the park including repairs to the water mains
- Limmen National Park - undertook termite control, replaced bollards and carried out repairs at the Tomato Island campground
- Keep River National Park - carried out repairs at the Ranger Station
- Limmen National Park - cleaned the fuel tank and replaced the genset at Nathan River
- Timber Creek - repaired termite and water damage at the Weeds office
- Cutta Cutta Caves - carried out repairs to the cave lights
- Caranbarini Conservation Reserve - carried out repairs at the Ranger Station and Walker Point shed
- Arltunga Historical Reserve - carried out conservation work on stone walls
- Araluen Homestead - carried out repairs and maintenance
- Alice Springs Telegraph Station - repaired damage to the verandah posts
- Alice Springs Old Courthouse - repaired the fence
- Barrow Creek Telegraph Station - repaired the ceiling and supports
- Naval Victualling Yard - replaced asbestos roof decking
- Stella Maris Hostel - carried out general repairs and maintenance
- Fannie Bay Gaol - carried out general repairs and maintenance
- Old QANTAS Hangar - repaired and resealed the bitumen tarmac
- Hunter House - undertook electrical fitout
- Katherine NAR Bridge - surveyed the painting and repaired the lighting
- Tennant Creek Telegraph Station - repaired walls and render
- Darwin Entertainment Centre - provided maintenance services
- Alice Springs Cultural Precinct - replaced doors and gutters, re-keyed throughout, carried out general repairs and maintenance, including repairs to the water supply.
- Alice Springs Cultural Precinct - Museum of Central Australian and Strehlow Building - carried out maintenance
- Alice Springs Cultural Precinct - Repainted the Mess House
- Alice Springs Cultural Precinct - Aviation Centre - replaced the hanging systems
- Bellman Hangar - Replaced insulation in air-conditioning system
- Bullocky Point Museum - carried out repairs and maintenance including relining, repairing and replacing drainage also carried out maintenance of the air-conditioning system
- Frog Hollow Arts Centre - carried out repairs and maintenance
- NT Archives - replaced the smoke detection equipment

| | Program \$'000 | Revised Program \$'000 | Expended \$'000 | Revoted into 2008-09 \$'000 |
|---|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Minor New Works - Territory Wildlife Parks - GBD | | | | |
| REVOTED MINOR NEW WORKS | | | | |
| Alice Springs Desert Park | 6 | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| Territory Wildlife Park | 11 | 11 | 6 | 5 |
| Total Revoted Works | 17 | 17 | 12 | 5 |
| NEW MINOR NEW WORKS | | | | |
| Alice Springs Desert Park | 81 | 81 | 16 | 33 |
| Territory Wildlife Park | 180 | 180 | 11 | 201 |
| Total Minor New Works | 261 | 261 | 27 | 234 |
| TOTAL | 278 | 278 | 39 | 239 |

Minor New Works Projects completed in 2007-08 for Territory Wildlife Parks - GBD

- Alice Springs Desert Park - installed carpark lighting
- Alice Springs Desert Park - installed electrical reticulation to presentation areas
- Territory Wildlife Park - upgrade the interpretive signage
- Territory Wildlife Park - upgraded the Whip Ray exhibit

| | Program \$'000 | Revised Program \$'000 | Expended \$'000 |
|---|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Repairs and Maintenance - Territory Wildlife Parks - GBD | | | |
| Alice Springs Desert Park | 184 | 184 | 186 |
| Territory Wildlife Park | 461 | 461 | 447 |
| TOTAL | 645 | 645 | 633 |

Repairs and Maintenance completed in 2007-08 for Territory Wildlife Parks - GBD

- Alice Springs Desert Park - carried out repairs and maintenance to furniture and buildings
- Alice Springs Desert Park - carried out maintenance of furniture throughout the park
- Territory Wildlife Park - carried out repairs and maintenance to interpretive signage
- Territory Wildlife Park - repaired eroded tracks
- Territory Wildlife Park - carried out repairs and maintenance to buildings throughout the park
- Territory Wildlife Park - undertook extensive clean-up and repairs to infrastructure following Tropical Cyclone Helen

Externally Funded Projects - Department

Additional capital works funding was obtained from two other Northern Territory Government Department (Tourism NT and the Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Mines) in 2006-07. The contribution from these Agencies is reflective of the synergies between Agencies that have a common purpose to support the Northern Territory's economy through tourism, conservation and recreational activities.

| | External Funding \$'000 | Dept. Funding \$'000 | Expended 2006-07 | Expended 2007-08 | Revoted into 2008-09 \$'000 |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Parks and Reserves | | | | | |
| Channel Point: develop park infrastructure including a boat launching facility, camp ground, road, parking and interpretive display. Additional funding sourced through the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industries and Mines. | 410 | 646 | 683 | 373 | 0 |
| West MacDonnell National Park (Larapinta Trail): construct shelters, barbecues and toilet facilities on the Larapinta Trail. Funding sourced through Tourism NT. | 380 | 29 | 0 | 288 | 121 |
| TOTAL | 790 | 675 | 683 | 661 | 121 |

Response to Whole of Government Frameworks

Building Safer Communities

Children and Young People

- Continued the Adopt a School partnership with Yipirinya School at the Alice Springs Desert Park to engage young local Indigenous students to experience career options, develop work skills and build self esteem.
- Successfully engaged a significant number of Indigenous people, including Indigenous youth, in a range of employment and training programs in Parks, providing individuals with new skills, opportunities and responsibilities and benefiting local communities.

Safer Homes and Businesses

- Installed security cameras at the entry station at the Territory Wildlife Park.
- Re-keyed the Alice Springs Desert Park and simplified the key hierarchy.
- Improved safety at the Alice Springs Cultural Precinct, in partnership with the Alice Springs Desert Park, through the pruning of vegetation, modification of access routes, removal of potentially harmful objects and by defining the area more clearly using external lighting.

Tackling Substance Abuse

- Continued the practice of no alcohol service and a safe and secure presentation ceremony for the 24th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.

Moving Alice Ahead

Red Centre Way

- Continued work with the Department of the Chief Minister and Tourism NT on the development of the Red Centre Way Strategy.

Growing the Indigenous Arts and Cultural Industry

- Developed a new, permanent exhibition at the Araluen Art Centre, documenting and analysing the history and development of Indigenous art in Central Australia by language group regions. The exhibition is scheduled to open in early 2009.
- Hosted two Indigenous art night markets at the Alice Springs Desert Park, in partnership with DesArt, that attracted 1657 visitors and \$55 000 in sales to the art centres.

Workforce Development

- Established a research project with Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre about the Indigenous employment program at the Alice Springs Desert Park, and used a Specialist Guide to assist Tourism NT with its Indigenous guide training

Closing the Gap

Jobs

- Utilised training programs to increase Indigenous employment in the Northern Territory Public Sector and employed/ hosted five Indigenous school-based apprentices and 17 Indigenous adult apprentices.

Culture

- Developed an Agency-specific handbook on engaging and communicating with Indigenous people and encouraged employee attendance at Cross Cultural Awareness courses.

Agency Contact Details

For general enquiries and correspondence:

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts (30 June 2008)

Goyder Centre
25 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston
PO Box 496, Palmerston, NT 0831
Telephone: 08 8999 5511
Facsimile: 08 8999 4722
www.nt.gov.au/nreta
webadmin.nreta@nt.gov.au

Museums, Galleries and Biological Parks

Araluen Arts Centre

Larapinta Drive
Alice Springs NT 0870
08 8951 1120
08 8953 0259 (fax)
araluencentre.nreta@nt.gov.au

Fannie Bay Gaol

East Point Road
Fannie Bay Darwin NT 0820
08 8999 8290
08 8981 8199 (fax)

Lyons Cottage

74 The Esplanade
Darwin NT 0800
08 8981 1750
08 8981 8077 (fax)

Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory

19 Conacher Street
Bullocky Point
Fannie Bay NT 0820
GPO Box 4646 Darwin NT 0801
08 8999 8264
08 8999 8289 (fax)
museum@nt.gov.au

Museum of Central Australia

Larrapinta Drive
Alice Springs NT 0870
08 8951 1121
08 8951 1107 (fax)
museumca.nreta@nt.gov.au

Strehlow Research Centre

Cnr Larapinta Drive and Memorial Avenue
PO Box 831
Alice Springs NT 0871
08 8951 1111
08 8951 1110 (fax)
strehlow@nt.gov.au

Alice Springs Desert Park

Larapinta Drive
Alice Springs
PO Box 1120 Alice Springs NT 0871
08 8951 8788
08 8951 8720 (fax)
asdp@nt.gov.au
www.alicespringsdesertpark.com.au

George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens

Geranium Street
Darwin NT 0800
08 8981 1958
08 8981 1647 (fax)
botgardens.darwin@nt.gov.au

Territory Wildlife Park

Cox Peninsula Rd
Berry Springs NT 0838
PO Box 771 Palmerston NT 0831
08 8988 7200
08 8988 7201 (fax)
twp@nt.gov.au
www.territorywildlifepark.com.au

Window on the Wetlands Visitor Centre

Arnhem Highway via Humpty Doo
PO Box 771 Palmerston NT 0831
08 8988 8188
08 8988 8123 (fax)
wow.pwcnt@nt.gov.au

Northern Territory Archives Service – Darwin

25 Cavenagh Street
Darwin NT 0800
GPO Box 874 Darwin NT 0801
08 8924 7677
08 8924 7660 (fax)
nt.archives@nt.gov.au

Northern Territory Archives Service – Alice Springs

Minerals House
58 Hartley Street
Alice Springs NT 0870
PO Box 8225 Alice Springs NT 0871
08 8951 5669
08 8951 5232 (fax)
nt.archives@nt.gov.au

Environment, Heritage and The Arts

Environment – Assessment, Operations and Policy

2nd Floor Darwin Plaza
41 Smith Street Mall
Darwin NT 0800
PO Box 496
Palmerston NT 0831
08 8924 4139
08 8924 4053 (fax)

Environment – Aquatic Health

2nd Floor Goyder Building
22 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 3413
08 8999 4403 (fax)

Environment – Operations

1st Floor Alice Plaza
Alice Springs NT 0870
08 8951 9201
08 8951 9268 (fax)

Heritage

1st floor 9-11 Cavenagh Street
 Darwin NT 0800
 08 8999 5039
 08 8999 8949 (fax)

Heritage

1st Floor Alice Plaza
 Alice Springs NT 0870
 08 8951 9247
 08 8951 9268 (fax)

Northern Territory Film Office

27 Hartley Street
 Alice Springs NT 0870
 PO Box 995, Alice Springs NT 0871
 08 8952 5222
 08 8952 0446 (fax)
 film.office@nt.gov.au

ArtsNT – Alice Springs

Larapinta Drive
 Alice Springs NT 0870
 08 8951 1190
 1800 678 237 (toll free)
 08 8951 1161 (fax)

Arts NT – Darwin

1st Floor 9 -11 Cavenagh Street
 Darwin NT 0800
 PO Box 496 Palmerston NT 0831
 08 8999 8981
 1800 678 237 (toll free)
 08 8999 8949 (fax)
 arts.office@nt.gov.au

Executive and Corporate Services

1st Floor Alice Springs Plaza
 Alice Springs NT 0870
 08 8951 9269
 08 8951 9268

1st Floor Goyder Building
 25 Chung Wah Terrace
 Palmerston NT 0830
 PO Box 496 Palmerston NT 0831
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 media.nreta@nt.gov.au
 records.nreta@nt.gov.au
 secretariat.nreta@nt.gov.au
 webadmin.nreta@nt.gov.au

Land and Water**Coastal and Marine Hydrology Branch**

4th Floor Goyder Building
 25 Chung Wah Terrace
 Palmerston NT 0830
 08 8999 3694
 08 8999 3666 (fax)

Land and Vegetation Branch

4th Floor Goyder Building
 25 Chung Wah Terrace
 Palmerston NT 0830
 08 8999 4443
 08 8999 3667 (fax)

Land and Water Division

Southern Region
 1st Floor Alice Springs Plaza
 Alice Springs NT 0870
 08 8951 9203
 08 8951 9222 (fax)

Spatial Data and Mapping Branch

4th Floor Goyder Building
 25 Chung Wah Terrace
 Palmerston NT 0830
 08 8999 4579
 08 8999 3666 (fax)

Hydrographic and Drilling Branch

4th Floor Goyder Building
 25 Chung Wah Terrace
 Palmerston NT 0830
 08 8999 4670
 08 8999 3666 (fax)

Water Resources Branch

4th Floor Goyder Building
 25 Chung Wah Terrace
 Palmerston NT 0830
 08 8999 3615
 08 8999 3666 (fax)

Biodiversity Conservation**Biodiversity Katherine / Wildlife Management**

Giles Street
 Katherine NT 0870
 08 8973 8857
 08 8973 8899 (fax)

Biodiversity North / Wildlife Management Operations

CSIRO Complex
 Vanderlin Drive
 Berrimah NT 0820
 08 8995 5000
 08 8995 5099 (fax)

Biodiversity South / Wildlife Management

Tom Hare Building
 Stuart Hwy
 Alice Springs NT 0870
 08 8951 8226
 08 8955 5190 (fax)

Arafura – Timor Research Facility

23 Ellengowan Drive
Brinkin NT 0810
08 8920 9261
08 8920 9222 (fax)
marine.nreta@nt.gov.au

Northern Territory Herbarium – North

Ground Floor Herbarium
The Boulevard
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 4516
08 8999 4527 (fax)

Northern Territory Herbarium – South

Alice Springs Desert Park
Larapinta Drive
Alice Springs NT 0870
08 8951 8791
08 8951 8790 (fax)

Parks**Alice Springs Regional Office**

Tom Hare Building
Arid Zone Research Institute
Alice Springs NT 0870
08 8951 8250
08 8951 8290 (fax)

Darwin Region

2nd Floor Goyder Centre
25 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 4555
08 8999 4558 (fax)

Katherine Regional Office

32 Giles Street
Katherine NT 0850
08 8973 8888
08 8973 8899 (fax)

parkmanagement.nreta@nt.gov.au
parksandwildlife.permits@nt.gov.au

Natural Resource Management**Bushfires NT**

Albatross Street
Winnellie NT 0820
08 8922 0832
08 8922 0833 (fax)

Community Programs

3rd Floor Goyder Centre
25 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 4464
08 8999 4403 (fax)

Rangeland Management

3rd Floor Goyder Centre
25 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 4474
08 8999 4403 (fax)
rangelands.nreta@nt.gov.au

Resource Management Katherine Region

Randazzo Building
Katherine NT 0850
08 8973 8100
08 8973 8122 (fax)

Resource Management North

3rd Floor Goyder Centre
25 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 4537
08 8999 4403 (fax)

Resource Management Southern Region

1st Floor Alice Springs Plaza
Alice Springs NT 0870
08 8951 9259
08 8951 9222 (fax)
wateradvisorysouth.nreta@nt.gov.au

Vegetation and Land Management

3rd Floor Goyder Centre
25 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 3467
08 8999 4403 (fax)

Water Management

3rd Floor Goyder Centre
25 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 4892
08 8999 4403 (fax)
water.nreta@nt.gov.au

Weed Management

3rd Floor Goyder Building
25 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 4414
08 8999 4445 (fax)
weedinfo.nreta@nt.gov.au
weedskatherine.nreta@nt.gov.au

Feedback Form

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts welcomes your feedback on the 2007-08 annual report.

CONTACT DETAILS (OPTIONAL)

Name _____

Organisation _____

Postal address _____

Email _____

DOCUMENT CONTENT

The report met your needs

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

The format of the report enabled easy access to areas of interest to you

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

The report addresses issues that are in the public interest

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

The report is easy to understand

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BEST DESCRIBES YOUR PRIMARY ROLE IN READING THIS REPORT?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business interests | <input type="checkbox"/> Student |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employee | <input type="checkbox"/> Local resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contractor/ supplier | <input type="checkbox"/> Other please specify _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member of community group | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member of environmental group | |

COMMENTS

Do you have any comments or suggestions on how our future annual reports could be improved?

Once completed please post to:

Dept Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts
Reply Paid 496
Palmerston NT 0831

or alternatively

Submit your feedback electronically on the NRETA website