

annual report 2005-06



The Northern Territory Department of Natural Resources,
Environment and The Arts would like to advise readers that this
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Northern Territory Department of Natural Resources, Environment
and The Arts
PO 496
Palmerston NT 0831
www.nt.gov.au/nreta

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DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND THE ARTS

annual report 2005–06



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 2005-06 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.

PO Box 496
Palmerston NT 0801
Telephone: 08 8999 4840
Facsimile: 08 8932 3849

Hon Marion Scrymgour MLA
Minister for Arts and Museums
Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage
Minister for Parks and Wildlife
Parliament House
Darwin NT 0800

Dear Minister

I am pleased to present you with the inaugural annual report of the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts for the 2005-06 financial year.

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*.

I advise that, to the best of my knowledge and belief:

- 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) in accordance with Section 15 of the *Financial Management Act* I advise that as at 30 June 2006 the Agency had adequate internal audit capacity. Further, the results of all internal audit matters have been reported to me;
- 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



David Ritchie
Chief Executive
October 2006



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Main Photo:

Short-billed corellas

Inset:

Katie Berto

Parks and Wildlife Service

overview





From the Chief Executive

The range of functions brought together in the new Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts reflects the importance government and community place on the Territory's natural and cultural assets. This Agency's job is to get a better understanding of the Territory's biophysical environments, our diverse society, complex social history and artistic capability so that Territorians have an opportunity to use these natural and cultural resources as a source of inspiration, innovation and personal and economic growth.

This year has been an exciting one. Along with the 'behind the scenes' work to establish the Agency, its locations and its corporate governance arrangements, we have recorded a number of achievements. We also overcame numerous challenges to perform our work, including the impact of Tropical Cyclone Monica and severe flooding in the Katherine region.

Outstanding among our successes are two achievements whose impact will be felt in decades to come: the work to establish the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) for the Northern Territory, and the continued work on the joint management of our Parks and Reserves.

The EPA's role is to assess and regulate potential environmental impacts of development, coordinate policy on and responses to greenhouse gases and climate change, and promote the continued health of our aquatic ecosystems.

With the ongoing strong growth of the Territory's economy and population, the role of the EPA is crucial. Our staff provided support and secretariat services to establish the interim EPA Board, and helped Board members consult with the Territory community about the final form and function of the EPA.

As part of the joint management agenda, the Agency forged strong partnerships with Traditional Owners to progress joint management plans and retain Indigenous trainees in our Parks and Reserves. Joint management of our Parks and Reserves creates job and training opportunities for Indigenous Territorians, and helps to support regional development in the Territory. It also provides rangers with the opportunity to learn traditional land management practices from Traditional Owners.

The Agency also fulfilled several government initiatives, including the launch of the Territory's inaugural Public Art Policy, Tour Operator Permits for operators in our Parks and Reserves and a Northern Territory Strategy for Greenhouse Action.

The Agency looks forward to a major role in building a confident and cohesive society that actively pursues the special opportunities available to Territorians, and also understands, responds creatively to, and deals successfully with the challenges involved in realising those opportunities. To do this we will continue to develop and maintain recreational and educational opportunities at our Parks and Museums and Art Galleries.

We will promote and grow the arts sector and screen industries. In addition we will enable sustainable utilisation of natural resources including water, native vegetation and wildlife, and predict and mitigate threats created by floods, wildfires, invasive species, resource degradation and nuisance wildlife.

Our objective is to make a critical contribution to Government's commitment to build and sustain a strong, positive Territory identity that reflects a shared understanding of our environments and our people.

I thank all staff for their efforts in contributing to our achievements in 2005-06, and I look forward to another successful year ahead.



David Ritchie
Chief Executive

About the Agency

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts was created by an Administrative Order in July 2005 through the amalgamation of select areas from the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment (DIPE) and the Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs (DCDSCA).

Divisions from the former DIPE that were constituted as part of this new Agency were the Conservation and Natural Resources Division, Territory Wildlife Parks Government Business Division and the Office of Environment and Heritage. The Arts and Museums business units were also removed from DCDSCA and placed within this Agency. The structures of these divisions have also been refined within the new Agency.

The creation of the Agency, and its particular combination of functions, reflects a commitment to integrating research into the natural environment, our culture and history and making this information easily accessible to the public. The Agency is also entrusted with conserving, monitoring and ensuring that these resources are used sustainably.



Building Safer Communities

All Agencies are required to provide an annual accounting of their performance against the Northern Territory Government's *Building Safer Communities 2004-2009 A Framework for Crime Prevention and Community Safety (BSC)*.

The Agency made a number of contributions toward achieving the goals of the *Building Safer Communities* framework:

Tackling Substance Abuse

- The Scientific and Cultural Collections Output Group contributed towards this key priority area through a policy by the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory of not serving alcohol at the annual National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards.
- Staff in the Parks and Reserves Output Group at Nitmiluk National Park worked with the Jawoyn Council on a program to minimise alcohol abuse within the Park. There is an agreement between Parks Division and the Jawoyn Traditional Owners that drinking in particular tourist areas within the Park is not permitted.

Partners in Crime Prevention

- Rangers from the Parks and Reserves Output Group conducted twice-daily patrols of the Casuarina Coastal Reserve (from Rapid Creek to Buffalo Creek), contacting the police if or when they witnessed illegal or antisocial behaviour.

Children and Young People

- The Arts and Screen Industry Support Output Group provided the opportunity for community groups to apply for grants for arts and cultural activity diversionary programs.

Our Vision

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

It is the Agency's goal that over the next 10 years, the Territory will be positioned to keep the demands on key resources within sustainable limits and, as a result, be recognised for the special character of its people's relationships with lands and seas. Additionally, the Territory will be recognised for a vibrant arts sector that underpins a strong sense of identity and community well-being. This will allow Territorians to use these natural and cultural resources as a source of inspiration, innovation and personal and economic growth.

In its own right the Agency will be:

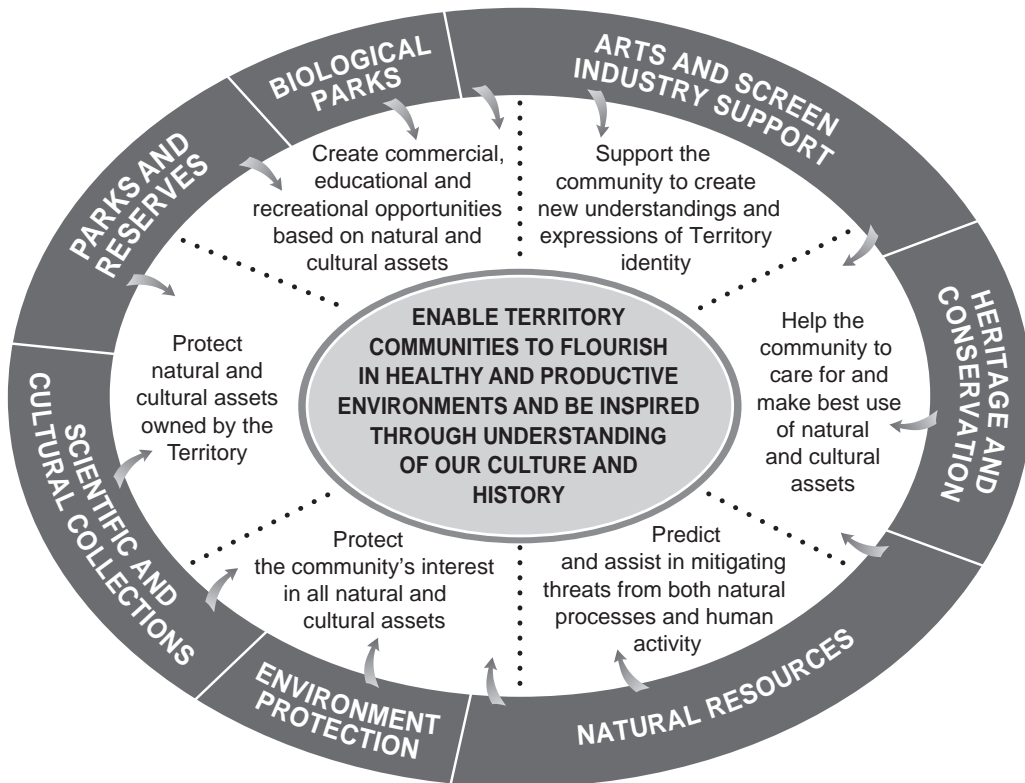
- Confirmed as an effective custodian of conservation and cultural assets placed in its care
- Relied on as an authoritative source of information and advice on management of environments and resources
- Respected for its active support for all managers of lands, seas and cultural assets to improve stewardship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

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 contribute towards its Strategic Outcomes. Achieving these Strategic Outcomes allows the Agency to fulfil its Vision. The Agency's Strategic Outcomes are detailed on the following page.

The Agency's Vision, Strategic Outcomes and Output Groups are represented visually below.





Strategic Role cont.

1. Protect natural, cultural and scientific assets owned by the Territory.

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 the community's interest in all natural and cultural assets.

This is achieved through increased understanding of these assets, knowing the dangers to their preservation, understanding public expectations for their protection and promoting awareness of their many values - including heritage places and objects, wildlife and native vegetation.

3. Predict and assist in mitigating threats from both natural processes and human activity.

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. This includes supporting the Environment Protection Agency in fostering development in an environmentally sustainable manner.

4. Create commercial, educational and recreational opportunities based on natural and cultural assets.

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.

5. Help the community to care for and make best use of natural and cultural assets.

This is achieved by facilitating grants schemes 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 contributes to national and international initiatives for improved management of these assets, including development of national policy, and ensuring the Territory's needs and opportunities are reflected in those initiatives.

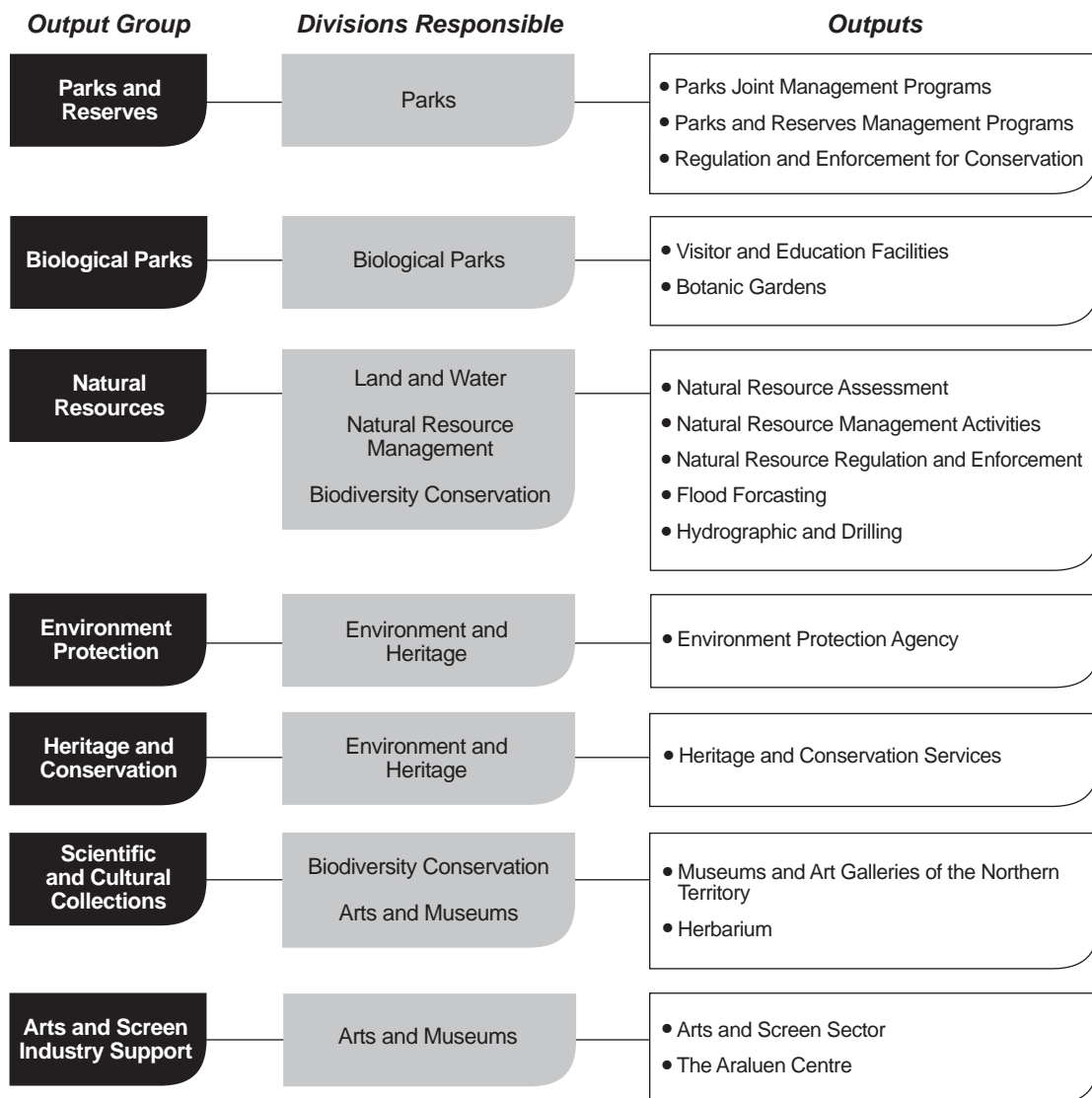
6. Support the community to create new understandings and expressions of Territory identity.

This is achieved by promoting the continued growth of a flourishing arts sector by providing opportunities for artists and arts organisations to develop new work and reach new audiences. This arts sector includes artists, performers, musicians and the Territory screen industry. The Agency also facilitates cultural events and provides opportunities for performance and expression for Territory artists.

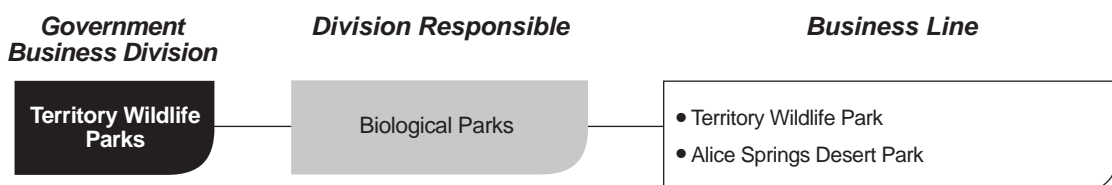
Operational Structure

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 page.

Department Operational Structure



Territory Wildlife Parks Operational Structure





Strategic Outcomes

Output Group: Parks and Reserves

This Output Group primarily contributes to the following Strategic Outcomes:

Protection of the natural and cultural assets, namely Parks and Reserves, owned by the Territory.

Creation of commercial, educational and recreational opportunities based on natural and cultural assets.

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 92 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 based on natural and cultural assets.

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:

Protection of the community's interest in all natural and cultural assets.

Predict and assist in mitigating threats from both natural processes and human activity.

Help the community to care for and make best use of natural and cultural assets.

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 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.

Output Group: Environment Protection

This Output Group primarily contributes to the following Strategic Outcome:

Protection of the community's interest in all natural and cultural assets.

A key component in the conservation of the Territory's natural assets is protection of the environment and the need of government, industry and the community to obtain advice on protecting the natural environment and regulation in relation to the Government's established frameworks to manage protection of the environment.

The objective of this Output Group is to advise the Government on environmental issues arising from proposed land uses to protect the Northern Territory's environment from detrimental affects.

Output Group: Heritage and Conservation

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

Help the community to care for and make best use of natural and cultural assets.

Heritage and 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:

Protection of the natural and cultural assets owned by the Territory.

Protection of the community's interest in all natural and cultural assets.

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
- 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:

Help the community to care for and make best use of natural and cultural assets.

Support the community to create new understandings and expressions of Territory identity.

Create commercial, educational and recreational opportunities based on natural and cultural assets.

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.

Territory Wildlife Parks

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

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

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

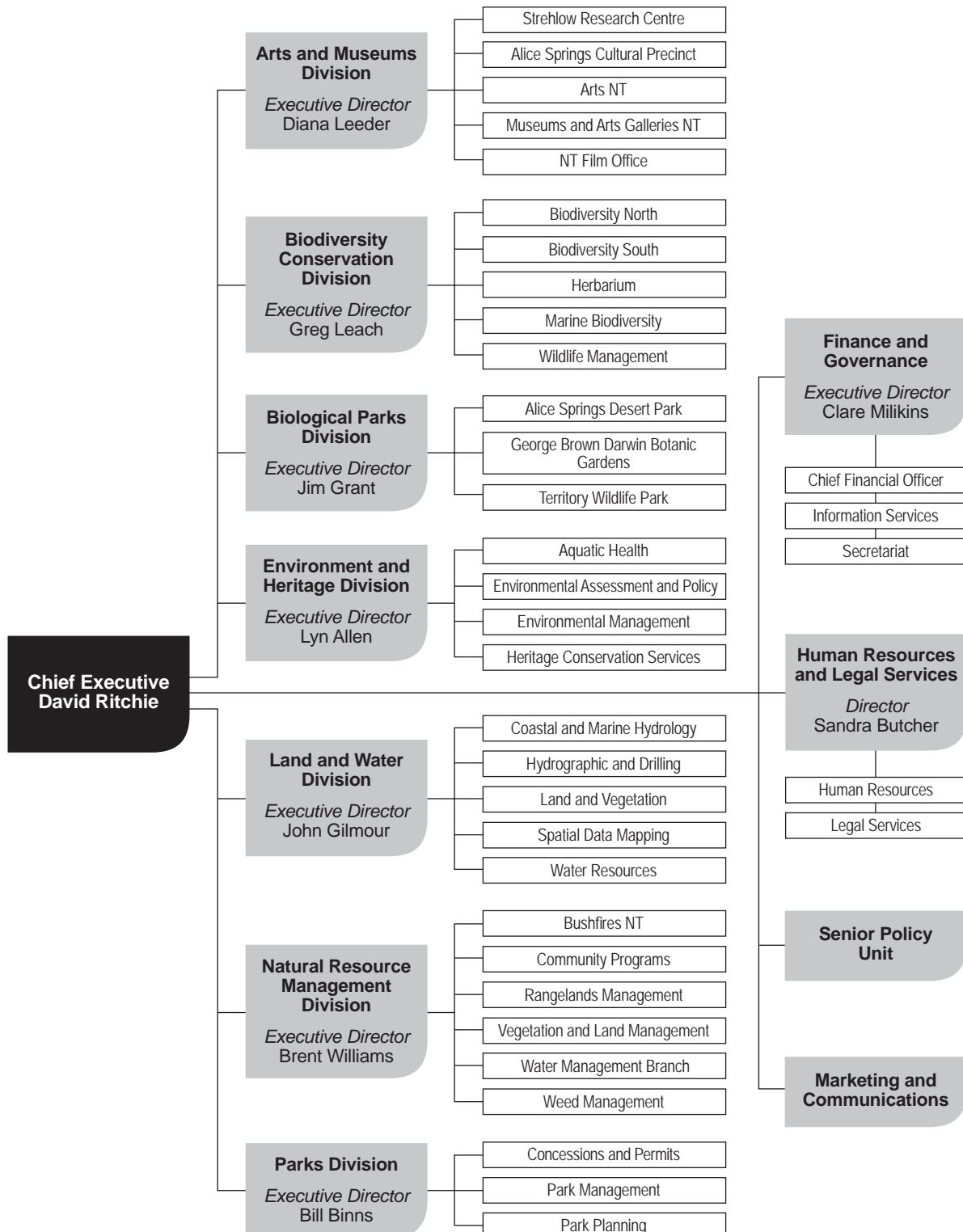
Territory Wildlife Parks is a Government Business Division responsible for managing the Territory Wildlife Park at Berry Springs and the Alice Springs Desert Park. Both Parks showcase the Territory's unique flora and fauna in a natural environment that is both inviting and interesting for visitors.

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 seven divisions and their associated business units, supported by the Corporate Support Services group.



Achievements and Challenges

In its inaugural year of existence, the Agency has delivered a substantial array of achievements to the Territory community through delivery of its core business. These achievements have been attained despite the enormous change and re-alignment of systems, functions and administration required behind the scenes following the Agency's creation.

In 2006-07 functions in the Agency's framework, notably its governance systems, will undergo further refinement. In 2006-07, following the Agency's establishment, it will be better positioned for the future achievements and challenges it has forecast.

Key Agency Achievements 2005-06

Joint Management Programs

Progressed joint management plans of Parks and Reserves with Traditional Owners and established a Flexible Employment Program to provide for casual and flexible work training opportunities for Indigenous people in southern region Parks and Reserves.



Joint management in Flora River Nature Park

Environment Protection Agency Consultation

The Agency provided support and secretariat services for the establishment of an interim Environment Protection Agency Board.

The Agency assisted the Board members in consulting with the Territory community regarding the form and function of a final EPA model for the Territory. The Board is expected to make its recommendations to the Minister in 2006-07 from the consultation exercise.



Environment Protection Agency scientists testing water quality in Darwin Harbour

Tour Operator Permit System

The Minister launched the Tour Operator Permit System, resulting in all tour operators requiring a permit to conduct business in a Park or Reserve. This regulation of the industry ensures natural and cultural values and management guidelines are maintained, visitor sites and their visitor capacities are managed and safety standards are met. The Permit System will also incorporate a training and accreditation component that will enhance the professional development of commercial tour operators and their guides.



Northern Territory Strategy for Greenhouse Action 2006

The Minister released the Territory's Strategy for Greenhouse Action in February 2006. The Strategy is the vision for Territorians to work together in reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, while continuing to develop a strong base for our economy and provide a foundation for further reductions in the long term. The implementation of the Strategy will also increase awareness about the risks of climate change and how we can better adapt to our changing natural environment.

Cabomba Weed Containment

The Agency contained the spread of Cabomba weed within the Darwin River through treatments of herbicide and extensive surveying of the region. This containment of Cabomba, a Weed of National Significance, protected the Darwin River Dam, Darwin's main source of water supply, from infestation. Strengthened efforts to eradicate the weed from Darwin River will occur in 2006-07.



Aquatic Weed Officers spraying Darwin River to contain the spread of Cabomba

Alice Springs Water Resource Strategy

Extensive consultation with the Alice Springs community occurred, regarding the formulation of plans for the best long term use of the town's water resources. This planning incorporated balancing social and environmental protection while also allowing for economic growth. The plan is expected to be formalised in 2006-07.



Todd River in Alice Springs

Flood Forecasting Post Tropical Cyclone Monica

The Agency provided critical flood forecasts to Police, Fire and Emergency Services for the Katherine Region, following the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Monica in the Katherine Region. Katherine was subjected to its second highest recorded flood in 120 years. The Agency's staff was put under increased pressure due to the gravity of the situation and constant requests for information, performing admirably in such circumstances.



Flooding in the town of Katherine

Public Art Policy

The Minister launched the Territory's inaugural Public Art Policy and introduced a Public Art Grants Program. The launch included the allocation of \$300 000 for public art projects in the Territory. The Policy underlines government's support of the creation and management of imaginative public art, while acknowledging the social and economic benefits that arts and culture bring to communities.



Vopak Art Tank Project, Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation

Key Challenges 2005-06

- Establishing the Agency's systems and processes and provision of suitable office accommodation to meet the needs of new staff was an enormous challenge in 2005-06. This was a priority issue for the Agency, and will be complete in 2006-07.
- Continuing to forge strong partnerships with Traditional Owners to progress joint management plans and retaining Indigenous trainees.
- Flooding due to Tropical Cyclone Monica caused extensive damage to the Agency's infrastructure at Berry Springs Nature Park, the Territory Wildlife Park and Nitmiluk National Park in Katherine. Much of the damage could not be repaired before dry season visitors arrived, causing visitor satisfaction surveys to be of a lower rating.

Future Priorities 2006-07

- Press for the West MacDonnell Ranges' World Heritage listing to be progressed.
- Adapt visitor experiences in our Territory Wildlife Parks to suit changes in visitor expectations from passive recreation activities and experiences towards interactivity and engagement.
- Implement a bore metering project in the Daly and Darwin Rural area to provide quantified data on domestic water use to assist with development of a water allocation plan.
- Assist the EPA Board in developing a legislative base to underpin the EPA and its activities.
- Continue the Cabomba weed eradication program in Darwin River, to ensure this Weed of National Significance does not spread to other Territory waterways and infiltrate Darwin's water supply at Darwin River Dam.
- Progress the National Water Initiatives, aimed at conserving the Territory's rivers and catchments. This entails water studies in the Gulf region through a Gulf Water Resources Study and a Model for Sustainable Water use in the Darwin/Daly regions. These studies will provide fundamental tools to enable a better understanding of groundwater availability in the Territory.
- Finalise the Agency's governance systems to ensure appropriate risk management and audit practices are in place.



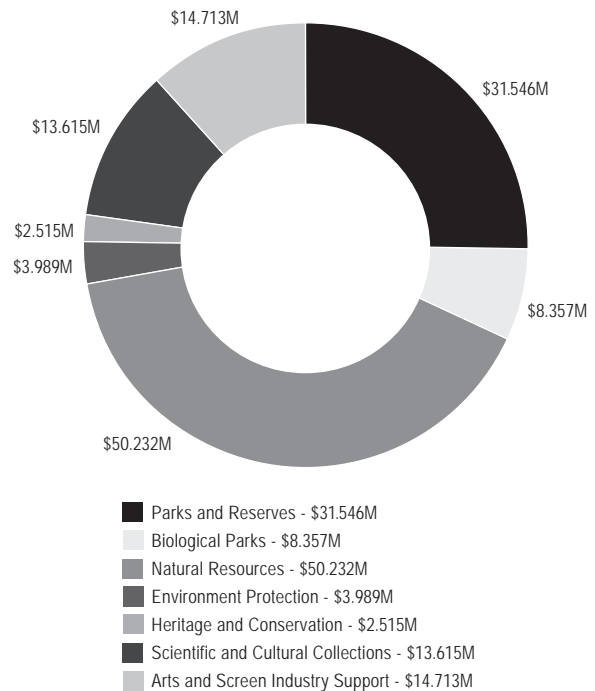
Income and Expenditure at a Glance

Income by Output Group - Department

The total operating revenue for the Department was \$124.967 million.

The Department receives its principal source of revenue (83 per cent or \$103 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 group on a budgeted 'break even' basis after allowing for depreciation.

Income by Output Group is presented graphically at right.

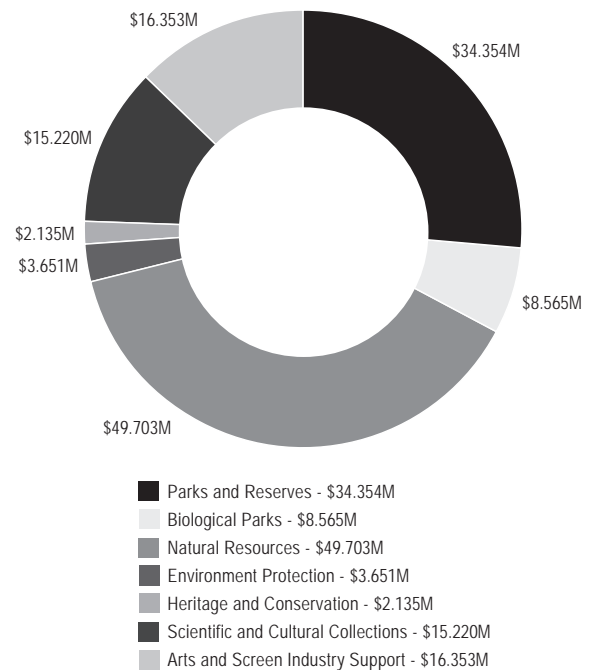


Expenditure by Output Group - Department

Total operating expenses for 2005-06 for the Department were \$129.98 million.

Employee expenses make up 36 per cent of the Department's expenses and totalled \$47 million. Administrative expenses totalled \$50.2 million in 2005-06 and comprise of the purchase of goods and services, property management, repairs and maintenance, depreciation and amortisation, asset revaluation expenses and services from the Department of Corporate and Information Services received free of charge. Other expenses include grants and subsidies and the Community Service Obligation payment made to the Territory Wildlife Parks.

Expenditure by Output Groups is presented graphically at right.



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

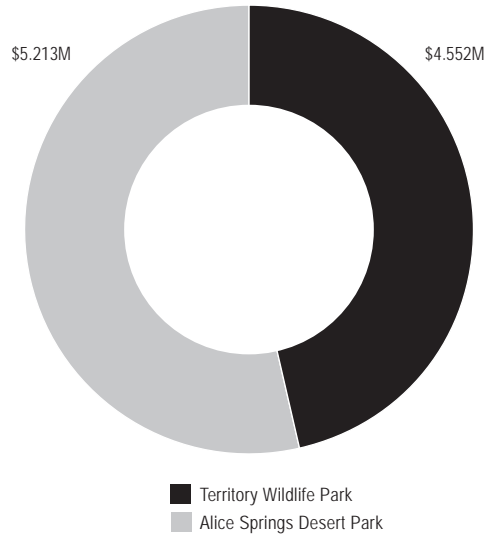
Revenue - Territory Wildlife Parks - Government Business Division

The Territory Wildlife Parks' total operating revenue for 2005-06 was \$9.765 million.

The principal source of income for the Parks is a Community Service Obligation (CSO) payment from the Department. In 2005-06 funding of \$7.82 million was received by Territory Wildlife Parks for non-commercial functions including education and endangered species breeding programs.

The Parks commercial income includes admission fees to the Parks, sales of goods and rental income for businesses trading within the Parks.

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



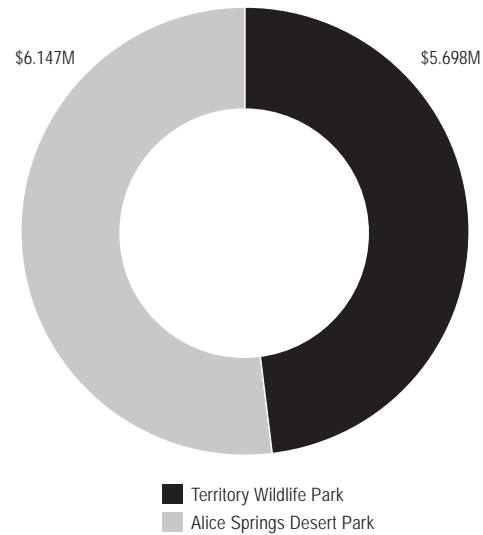
Expenditure - Territory Wildlife Parks - Government Business Division

Territory Wildlife Parks' total operating expenses totalled \$11.845 million in 2005-06.

Employee expenses increased in 2005-06 by \$0.15 million reflecting a decision to boost the marketing and business development capacity of the Parks. This facilitated the development of promotional and advertising initiatives to increase visitor numbers to the Parks.

Other expenses from ordinary activities comprise repairs and maintenance, property management, marketing and promotion and the purchases of goods and services.

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 162.



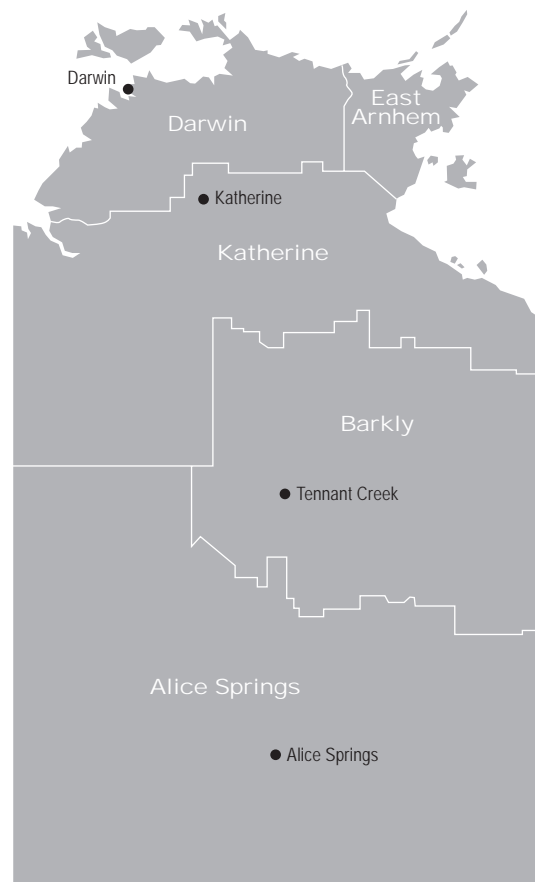
Regional Highlights

Darwin Region

- Modelled impacts of proposed Darwin Harbour dredging work and the construction of a sea wall on sediments for the Waterfront Precinct.
- Provided water velocity survey data of Darwin Harbour to the Australian Maritime College to assist with modelling of Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) tankers berthing and operating safely at Darwin's LNG Plant.
- Commenced cooperative work with Charles Darwin University and the Australian Institute of Marine Science on developing a hydrodynamic sediment transport and water quality model for Melville Bay.
- Worked with Professor Eric Valentine of Charles Darwin University on water quality modelling of sewage treatment outfalls in Darwin Harbour.
- Developed a new draft five year habitat-based concept plan for the Territory Wildlife Park and initiated discussion with Indigenous custodians about developing new Indigenous interpretation and visitor experiences.
- Developed new visitor experiences at the Territory Wildlife Park which focus on the changing needs of interstate and international tourists, including barramundi feeding and a new woodland exhibit.
- Installed a new school overnight campground at the Territory Wildlife Park and provided free entry to Northern Territory schools to reduce barriers to access by all school children.
- Introduced a new breeding program for the northern quoll.

East Arnhem Region

- Commenced a major survey of the biodiversity of Groote Eylandt and adjacent smaller islands, in collaboration with the Anindilyakwa Land Council.
- Introduced the festivals development initiative to support festival activity including the Garma Festival and Gove Peninsula Festival.
- Consulted with the community about the form and function of a final Environment Protection Agency for the Northern Territory by holding an information session and workshop.



Katherine Region

- Completed an assessment of the effects of feral animals on land condition in the Victoria River District.
- Successfully hosted the Territory Landcare awards and presentation evening in Katherine.
- Issued more than 200 flood advices for the Katherine River (15), Upper Roper River (53), Daly River (88) and Victoria River (47). All forecasts were accurate in terms of the estimates provided and subsequent revision due to subsequent rainfall and upstream river rises.
- Consulted with the community about the form and function of a final Environment Protection Agency for the Northern Territory by holding an information session and workshop.
- Formed a Board of Management for the Gregory National Park.
- Finalised the 20 year Commercial Development Plan for Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park to develop tourism infrastructure to increase economic opportunities for the Jawoyn people.
- Established a joint management working group for the Flora River Nature Park.
- Improved access to the Victoria River by constructing a boat ramp at Gregory Creek.
- Installed interpretative displays throughout the Katherine region, in particular at Bulllita Homestead in Gregory National Park and Nganalam in Keep River National Park.

Barkly Region

- Commenced repairs and maintenance to the heritage listed Tennant Creek Telegraph Station.
- Progressed management programs for the Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve.
- Commenced a traineeship for a Traditional Owner at Tennant Creek as part of Parks' joint management initiatives.
- Introduced the festivals development initiative to support festival activity across all regions including Tennant Creek's Desert Harmony.
- Conducted grant writing workshops in various centres, including Tennant Creek, to help artists and the community access the Arts Grants Program and write more successful applications for grant funding.

Alice Springs Region

- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Strehlow Research Centre and the Central Australian Stolen Generations and Aboriginal Families Corporation.
- Oversaw the investigation for the Alice Springs Soil Aquifer Treatment Scheme into Demonstration Production Bores
- Installed new nature theatre seating for greater visitor comfort and safety at the Alice Springs Desert Park.
- Consulted with the community about the form and function of a final Environment Protection Agency for the Northern Territory by holding an information session and workshop.



overview

- Introduced a new Backpackers Day experience at the Alice Springs Desert Park with an emphasis on hands-on activities and introduced new French audio guides for international tourists.
- Employed a new product development manager to develop a new range of products at the Alice Springs Desert Park.
- Introduced mala to Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park following a successful breeding program.
- Won the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment's Equity and Diversity Award in the open category for the Desert Park's Indigenous employment and staff development program, and won a NT Tourism Brologa award for Major Tourist Attraction, for the second year in a row.
- Further developed Indigenous interpretation and visitor experiences at the Alice Springs Desert Park in collaboration with Traditional Owners.
- Generated increased sales and audience attendance figures for the 2005 Desert Mob art exhibition, featuring recent works from Aboriginal art centres in Central Australia.
- Generated increased sales and audience attendance figures for the 2005 Desert Mob DanceSite event, held as part of the Alice Springs Festival.
- Provided in-kind support for the annual Beanie Festival and 10th anniversary Beanie Festival Exhibition, *Colours of the Country*, in the Araluen Galleries.
- Attracted strong audiences for the Araluen Art House Cinema Program throughout the year and increased annual attendance figures for the Sydney Travelling Film Festival in February 2006 by 11 per cent.
- Developed a joint working arrangement with the Alice Springs Desert Park covering management and presentation of the Alice Springs Cultural Precinct grounds and lighting of attractions at the Desert Park.
- Contributed to the Alice Springs Town Council Solar Cities application by commissioning an energy efficiency analysis, mechanical review and electrical review of operations at the Alice Springs Cultural Precinct.

How to Contact Us

For general enquiries and correspondence:

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts

Goyder Building
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

Territory Wildlife Parks – Government Business Division

Territory Wildlife Park

Cox Peninsula Road, Berry Springs
PO Box 771, Palmerston, NT 0831

Telephone: 08 8988 7200

Facsimile: 08 8988 7201

www.territorywildlifepark.com.au

twp@nt.gov.au

Alice Springs Desert Park

Larapinta Drive, Alice Springs
PO Box 1120, Alice Springs, NT 0871

Telephone: 08 8951 8788

Facsimile: 08 8951 8720

www.alicespringsdesertpark.com.au

asd@nt.gov.au

For a full listing of the Agency's contact details see Appendix 4.

Opposite Page

Main Photo:
Darwin Harbour

Inset:
Julia Fortune
Environment Protection Agency

corporate
governance





corporate governance

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:

- Legislative Environment
- Management Environment (in terms of how decisions are made, communicated and implemented)
- Leadership and Direction

- Identification and Management of Risk
- Accountability Frameworks
- 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). The Agency has elected to adopt the principles advocated by the ANAO in reviewing and developing its own governance framework.

* Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) *Better Practice Guide, Public Sector Governance Vol 1 Framework, Processes and Practices*, ANAO, Canberra, July 2003, copyright Commonwealth of Australia

Principles of Public Sector Governance

Accountability	Process whereby the Agency and its employees are responsible for their decisions and actions and submit themselves to appropriate external scrutiny.
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.
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 and 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.
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.
Leadership	Refers to the tone at the top and is critical to achieving a commitment to good governance across the Agency.
Efficiency	The best use of resources in order to forward the organisation with a commitment to evidence-based strategies for improvement.

These principles reflect the need for corporate governance to address both performance and conformance and treat each within a risk management framework rather than trade one off against the other*.

Since the Agency's creation, a major focus has been to establish its working structures and systems. While 2005-06 has been a year of extreme change for the Agency, the principles of governance have not been ignored. This is evident with the creation of the Finance and Governance Division, created in the last quarter of 2005-06.

Other key initiatives implemented to provide the foundations of a sound governance framework include:

- Establishment of the Executive Management Group
- Leadership and Culture Building Initiative
- Development of a Strategic Plan
- Revision of the Agency's Outputs and Performance Reporting Model
- Development of a Timetable for Legislative Review.



Management Environment

Decision Making

The Chief Executive and the Executive Management Group have the primary responsibility for providing strategic leadership and management for the Agency.

The Executive Management Group met for the first time on 9 August 2005, following the Agency's creation on 11 July 2005.

The Executive Management Group is the Agency's principal planning and decision making body and met 14 times during 2005-06 in both Darwin and Alice Springs.

The Executive Management Group is 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 Executive Management Group meetings as required to make presentations to the group.

Dr David Ritchie - Chief Executive Agency



David heads the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts, a position he has held since the Agency was created. David has worked in the Northern Territory for 26 years in the public sector, primarily managing cultural heritage, land and natural resources. For 15 of these years he has held the position of Chief Executive in the Northern Territory public service. David currently serves on the boards of the Tropical Savannas Cooperative Research Centre, Northern Territory Land Corporation and the Conservation Land Corporation. David's academic background is in anthropology. He is a fellow of the Australian Anthropological Society and Australian Institute of Company Directors.

***Lyn Allen – Executive Director
Environment and Heritage***



Lyn has held this position since August 2004. Before she returned to the Territory in 2004, Lyn was Director Environment and Resource Policy in the Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet. Lyn has wide experience in the environment area at local, national and international levels. She has also worked for a range 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 a Graduate Diploma in Technology Management. She is a member of the Australian Institute of Management and a Graduate Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

***Bill Binns - Executive Director
Parks***



Bill began active working life in the pastoral industry in 1963. After nine years of Navy service, he worked in the Commonwealth department responsible for fisheries and wildlife management and has continued his career in the parks and wildlife management field. Bill is one of the few remaining staff who formed the first parks and wildlife entity in the Territory. He has been involved in the establishment of the crocodile industry, developing a dingo control program, and identifying and exploring new areas for the Parks estate, including the Davenport Ranges, Limmen National Park and Spirit Hills. In 2005, Bill achieved 30 years service in the area of parks and wildlife and has made significant progress towards implementing joint management, professionalising the ranger service and promoting the value of Parks as a major contributor to the Territory's economy.



corporate governance

***John Gilmour – Executive Director
Land and Water***



John has held this position since October 2003, coming to the Territory from his position within the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency as Executive Director (Corporate Affairs). John previously worked in the Northern Territory from 1977 to 1982, including taking on the role of Manager of the Conservation Commission's Environment Unit (the forerunner to the current Environment and Heritage Division). John was also the first director of a combined environment division in the Queensland Government integrating air, water, noise, waste and environmental assessment. In this capacity he was the Queensland representative on the Standing Committee of the Australian Ministerial Council for Environment for over 15 years. John has qualifications in Civil Engineering from James Cook University, and post tertiary qualifications in Business Administration and Environmental Engineering.

***Jim Grant – Executive Director
Biological Parks***



Jim has a background in environmental education, commercial wildlife tourism development, interpretation, and innovative delivery of education for sustainable development. Jim previously worked for Melbourne Zoo, Earth Sanctuaries in South Australia, the Gould League/Gould Group and Melbourne Botanic Gardens. Jim's skills are in organisational culture change and developing visitor experiences that deliver commercial, social and educational outcomes.

***Dr Greg Leach – Executive Director
Biodiversity Conservation***



Greg has over 30 years experience in botanical survey and the taxonomy and ecology of tropical plants. Greg has worked in the Northern Territory for the last 20 years in the areas of plant systematics and wildlife conservation. He 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 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. His 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.

***Diana Leeder – Executive Director
Arts and Museums***



Diana has formal qualifications in librarianship, management and urban and regional planning. Before joining the Northern Territory Government in July 2003, with the then Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs, Diana worked in local government, firstly in the New South Wales regional library services and then in community services with the Darwin City Council.



corporate governance

***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.

***Brent Williams - Executive Director
Natural Resource Management***



Brent has over 20 years of experience in natural resource management. Brent has worked in the Northern Territory for the last 12 years in park management, bushfires and weed management and natural resource management. Brent graduated from the University of South Australia with a Bachelor of Applied Science Wildlife and Park Management and has studied Business Management at the Australian Graduate School of Management. Brent represents the Northern Territory on the national Natural Resources Policy and Programs Committee and is the chairman of the Australian Vertebrate Pests Committee.

***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. She 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 20 years. She 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. She is currently the Director of Museums and Arts Galleries of the Northern Territory.



Sub-Committee Reports

The Agency has a number of sub-committees which report to the Executive Management Group and provide an increased focus on the critical areas of the Agency's activities.

The committees, detailed below, form a part of the Agency's governance framework, which will receive further emphasis and development in 2006-07.

Information Management Committee

Is responsible for coordinating the strategic development of the Agency's information management infrastructure and policy. The Committee's aim is to ensure the Agency's information and record management systems and data sets are cost effective, effectively managed, reliable and support the achievement of core business outcomes. The Committee has divisional, service provider and regional representation, and met bi-monthly.

Key Outcomes

- Established two sub-committees, being the Scientific and Spatial Data Sub-Committee and the Information Technology Infrastructure Sub-Committee. These sub-committees will progress the strategic initiatives identified by the Information Management Committee.

- Endorsement of the following policies for the Agency:

- Information Access Protocol
- Privacy Policy
- Records Management Policy
- Privacy Breach Response Protocol to facilitate consistent and appropriate response to any breach of an individual's privacy rights under the Northern Territory's Information Privacy Principles, that results from action or inaction by staff of the Agency.

Future Priorities

- Improve information governance through auditing and rationalising business system architecture and to reduce data duplication and storage costs by making shared information sets available across functions and regions.
- Focus on the preservation of digital information, to ensure that the Northern Territory Government's investment in the Territory's self knowledge results in knowledge bases that are accessible and understandable for future generations of Territorians.

The Northern Territory Natural Resource Condition Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Executive Steering Committee

The Committee oversees the development and implementation of the Northern Territory's Natural Resource Condition Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Strategy to ensure that the Territory meets its resource condition monitoring obligations. The Committee met quarterly during 2005-06.

Key Outcomes

- The Committee established the direction for a Technical Reference Group for developing, monitoring and reporting on resource condition targets as set in the Northern Territory Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan.

Future Priorities

- Review the Technical Reference Group's workplan and outcomes.
- Review and prioritise resource commitments to achieve the required monitoring and evaluation outcomes.
- Endorse the Northern Territory Resource Condition Report.

Safety and Cyclone Preparation Committee

With the creation of the Agency prior to the 2005-06 wet season, tropical cyclone and emergency procedures and preparations were formalised. Additionally, the Committee ensures that safety policy and procedures for the Goyder and Gaymark Buildings in Palmerston are current, and any safety or security issues within the buildings are addressed. The Committee met quarterly during 2005-06.

Key Outcomes

- The Agency's Tropical Cyclone Plan was reviewed and updated following the creation of the Agency and placed on the Agency's Intranet site. The procedures were used during Tropical Cyclone Monica and feedback showed that staff appreciated the clarity of who was responsible for what, communication channels and contact points.
- Fire warden and extinguisher training was provided due to insufficient numbers of fire wardens on all floors of each building.
- Fire warden and evacuation procedures for the Goyder Building were updated.
- Regular safety audits of the building resulted in the timely resolution of Occupational Health and Safety issues such as lighting in the underground carpark and stair wells.

Future Priorities

- Address Occupational Health and Safety issues for the entire Agency, at all office and public facility localities.



corporate governance

Leadership

The Agency's Executive Management Group participated in a one day workshop to develop an understanding of the impact leaders have upon culture in a work environment. The workshop also focused on designing a methodology for the Executive Management Group to actively work on organisational culture through how they operate as leaders.

This process was undertaken after the Executive Management Group identified the need to build the culture and identify leadership pathways that will increase the Agency's capacity to perform. As a new Agency, created from the mergence of divisions from other Northern Territory Government agencies, a number of different cultures were amalgamated and are now required to work coherently.

The two components important for culture change have been recognised, namely developing a clear shared concept of what organisational culture is and how it operates, and an understanding of the current cultures in the organisation, in order to design and implement appropriate changes.

Development of a shared organisational culture for the Agency that underpins the principles of effective corporate governance, is a priority in 2006-07.

Business Planning

The Agency was required to review and re-align its business plans relative to all Output Groups following its creation in July 2005. This planning process provided clear direction on the strategic issues the Agency will focus on in the future. All business units within the Agency undertake regular business planning to ensure alignment with government priorities, initiatives and outcomes.

The Agency held several strategic planning days in 2005-06, attended by the Executive Management Group, to formulate the Agency's Strategic Corporate Plan 2006-2015. This involved workshops to discuss and finalise the Agency's core values and purpose within the Northern Territory Government.

A planning day with the Minister responsible for the portfolios aligned to the Agency was also held in 2005-06. Agency staff who attended included the Executive Management 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.

Governing Legislation

The Agency is responsible for administering 21 Acts and subordinate legislation, on behalf of the Minister for Arts and Museums, Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage and Parks and Wildlife.

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

A complete list of legislation administered by the Agency and amendments to the Acts and Regulations in 2005-06 is located in Appendix 2 on page 190.

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 Appendix 1 on page 182.

Strategic Partnerships

Cooperative Partnerships

Achieving the Agency's goals 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.



Other Northern Territory Government Agencies

- Participating in a number of multi-agency arrangements, including:
 - a new Schedule under the Overarching Agreement on Indigenous Affairs;
 - proposals for creating a Ministerial Council to oversee management of major resource development issues;
 - development of water management and effluent management systems in Alice Springs; and
 - weed risk assessment initiatives.

Other Governments

- Coordinating Northern Territory Government inputs to the Integrated National Resource Management Plan and its associated investment strategies, promoting matching of government investments in conservation and sustainable production to community priorities and actions.
- Participating in a range of working groups and committees that service the National Resource Management Ministerial Council, Environment Protection and Heritage Council and Cultural Ministers Council. This allows us to coordinate our work with activities in other jurisdictions and ensure an effective north Australian voice in natural resource management policy development.
- Collaborating with neighbouring states through the Cooperative Framework on Tropical Science, Knowledge and Innovation and Desert Knowledge initiatives, and managing cross-border issues such as coordinated management of shared river catchments.
- Participating in the Kew Gardens England Millennium Seed Bank Project so seeds can be conserved for the long term.

Landowners and Resource Managers

- Supporting activities of Indigenous and non Indigenous landowners and resource managers in the Daly River region to articulate their aspirations and concerns and develop plans for meeting them.
- Working with:
 - weed advisory committees in Katherine, Darwin and Alice Springs;
 - water advisory committees in the Ti Tree region, Mary River and Rapid Creek; and
 - the Centralian Land Management Association and pastoral lessees to trial locally appropriate approaches to environmental management systems.
- Developing and implementing a long term partnership with Heytesbury Beef to examine options for maintaining biodiversity on pastoral lands.
- Working with Bullo River Station and the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation to investigate tourism and use of wildlife.

Indigenous Groups

- Carrying out the Government's initiative for joint management of Parks and Reserves, which has involved:
 - completing plans of management for a number of Reserves;
 - establishing protocols for effective joint decision making and governance structures;
 - providing formal (accredited) and on the job training in first aid, weed control, bushfire safety and fire management; and
 - developing options for enterprise in tourism and providing a range of other services to Parks.

- Creating partnerships with Larrakia (Darwin) and Tjuwanpa Outstation Resource Centre (Hermannsburg) ranger groups involving flexible employment and training programs.
- Working with Dhimurru Aboriginal Land Management Corporation in training and other support for managing their Indigenous Protected Area.
- Researching threatened species, developing conservation priorities and establishing the case for an Indigenous Protected Area on Groote Eylandt, in collaboration with Anindilyakwa rangers.
- partnering the Strehlow Research Centre with the University of Western Sydney with funding from the Australian Research Council to produce a multimedia reinterpretation of TGH Strehlow's autobiographical story.

Arts and Related Sectors

- Supporting participation of individuals, organisations and community in arts and cultural activities through grants programs for visual and performing arts, literature and film, and providing venues and promotion to support exhibitions and performances.

Research Providers

- Facilitating access to additional research income of more than \$7 million through collaborative work including:
 - participating in the Tropical Savannas Cooperative Research Centre and Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre;
 - participating in the Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge consortium, which addresses important issues in river and water management and sustaining associated livelihoods;
 - taking a major role in establishing Bioscience North Australia and contributing to a number of other schedules of the Northern Territory Government partnership with Charles Darwin University;
 - developing collaborative research, and co-supervision of postgraduate students, with CSIRO, University of Adelaide, Australian National University and University of Florida, to support research with direct implications for the management of the Territory's natural resources; and

External Committees and Boards

The Agency also 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:

Environment Protection Agency (EPA) Board

An interim Board consisting of Professors Gordon Duff (Chair) and Donna Craig, and Ms Judith King was appointed by the Minister in October 2005. The Board's task is to make recommendations to Government about the form and function of the final EPA, and on the details of legislation to underpin any new arrangements. The interim Board has no statutory base, and is not involved in operational matters.



Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

Members of the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee (DHAC) are appointed by the Minister. The Committee was established to advise the Minister on matters relating to the environment, planning and development of the Darwin Harbour Catchment. DHAC oversees three working groups: the Ecosystem Monitoring Group, Ecosystem Research Group and the Indigenous Working Group.

Litter Abatement and Resource Recovery Advisory Committee

The Litter Abatement and Resource Recovery Advisory Committee is a non-statutory committee established under the Litter Abatement and Resource Recovery Strategy (LARRS). The Committee was responsible for assessing the merits of funding applications under the LARRS grant scheme; advising the Minister on the merits of new policies, laws and other initiatives promoting better litter abatement and recycling and advising the Minister on the success of the initiatives in the Strategy.

Natural Resource Management Board (NT) Inc

The NRM Board (NT) Inc. has been established in order to implement a strategic approach to natural resource management through the Northern Territory Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) Plan and Regional Investment Strategy (RIS), as agreed by the Northern Territory and Australian governments.

Infrastructure Management

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

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.

Additionally, the Agency's Heritage and Conservation Output Group assist the community in preserving heritage assets through a \$10 million heritage repairs and maintenance program, which is funded over 10 years. This funding combined with the provision of advice and regulation allows heritage listed infrastructure to be maintained for future use. Such activities in 2005-06 included repairs to Darwin's Lyon's Cottage and the Old Qantas Hanger, Tennant Creek's Telegraph Station and painting Adelaide River's Railway Station.

Challenges in 2005-06

The remote locality of the Agency's infrastructure and assets poses significant challenges for infrastructure management, while climate extremes and natural disasters also have a decided influence on activities.

In April 2006 flooding in the Katherine and Daly region due to the effects of Tropical Cyclone Monica required a shift in priorities and resources to facilitate works on assets damaged by these disasters. Areas affected included the Territory Wildlife Park and regional offices in Katherine.

In 2005-06, significant resources were invested in the amalgamation, monitoring, and progress of the Infrastructure Management Program for the new Agency. A key objective of infrastructure management was the combination of programs for the different Output Groups and identification of any congruencies within the infrastructure program.

Future Priorities

Infrastructure priorities for 2006-07 include:

- Continued works at the Mary River Wetlands desalination plant, which includes construction of new weirs and upgrading existing weirs for saltwater intrusion control works.
- Upgrading of the first and second gorge crossovers at Nitmiluk National Park.

Capital Works for 2005-06 for the Agency can be found in Appendix 3 on page 192.

Risk Management Practices and Audits

In assessing the Agency's strategic risk management frameworks and policies it is important to recognise that 2005-06 was the first year of this Agency's operation. This is relevant to the capacity of the Agency to have developed and implemented complete risk management and internal audit structures and processes.

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. It is this capacity in which the Agency invested in 2005-06, with the establishment of and recruitment to a Chief Financial Officer position in November 2005, and the establishment of the Finance and Governance Division in June 2006.

This Division now has responsibility for identifying and implementing appropriate risk management and internal audit frameworks and processes for the Agency. It is proposed that a risk and audit committee will be established, playing an important role in establishing a focus for ongoing risk identification, mitigation and monitoring. Additionally, the committee will be responsible for the implementation of internal audit processes and provide a level of assurance about the control practices of the Agency.

In the absence of a formal separate standing audit or risk management committee in 2005-06, the Agency's Executive Management Group assumed these responsibilities and activities. Within this operating framework a series of internal and external audits and reviews were undertaken. These reviews were conducted through a combination of external auditors, the Territory's Auditor-General, Agency staff and assistance from Risk Management Services within the Department of the Chief Minister.



Internal Audits and Reviews

Internal review of the Museum of Central Australia retail operations within the Alice Springs Cultural Precinct

A review was conducted by Agency officers to assess the revenue, expenses and financial risk associated with the operation of the retail arm of the Museum of Central Australia. The review also considered the risks associated with holding goods on consignment and the turnover levels of individual inventory lines.

The review concluded that the retail operation should be maintained. In line with the recommendations of the review the amount of goods held on consignment has been reduced and some changes in the level and type of inventory held have also occurred.

Review of security operating procedures, emergency evacuation and cyclone plans for the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory and associated properties

An evaluation of the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT and associated properties' security operation procedures, emergency evacuation and cyclone plans was undertaken in September 2005.

The review is undertaken annually by the following groups within the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory: Executive Management Team, Facilities and General Services Manager and the Cyclone Management Team. The review considered the changing needs of each procedure and allowed the organisation to manage safety, security issues and risk management.

Training was developed, to be implemented in 2006-07, to accommodate the requirements of emergency procedures, cyclone plans and security operating procedures.

The disaster management budget was reviewed to ensure that material and tools were in place to manage any requirements of the procedures and plans for the coming year.

Arts NT Operational Risk Assessment

In January 2006, Risk Management Services of the Department of the Chief Minister facilitated an operational risk assessment workshop with Arts NT, a program within the Arts and Screen Industry Support Output Group. The assessment was to identify the potential risks faced by Arts NT in being able to deliver upon its objectives as stated within the current business plan. A restructure of Arts NT has addressed some of the risks identified and further implementation of the risk management plan will continue in 2006-07.

Strategic Business Risk Assessment of Parks and Reserves Management

In March 2006, Risk Management Services of the Department of the Chief Minister facilitated a workshop to consider the priority strategic business risks faced by Parks and Reserves Management in being able to deliver its objectives as identified in the current business plan and the actions planned to manage those risks.

The report identified the priority strategic business risks faced and the actions planned to manage those risks.

Various Parks and Reserves Operational Risk Assessment

In March 2006, Risk Management Services of the Department of the Chief Minister facilitated workshops with the Agency's Parks and Reserves operational staff to identify priority strategic business risks faced by some of the Parks, and the actions planned to manage those risks. The Parks included, Daly Remote Parks, Litchfield National Park, Mary River Park and Fogg Dam.

The business risks faced by the Parks have been identified and operational risk management plans developed. The Parks and Reserves Management Group will be responsible for implementation and monitoring.

Risk Assessment Watarrka National Park Rim Walk

A risk assessment of the Watarrka National Park rim walk was conducted in August 2005 by officers of NT Worksafe and the Occupation Health and Safety unit of the Department of Corporation and Information Services. The review provided an external assessment of perceived risks associated with the walk.

The findings have been discussed with representatives of the tourism industry and tourist operators. Some of the risks identified in the assessment that are associated with infrastructure have been addressed through the Department's repairs and maintenance program. Further implementation of the findings will continue in 2006-07.

External Audit

Several external audits were performed by the Auditor-General's Office in 2005-06.

Territory Wildlife Parks Financial Statements 2004-05 (Audit completed 2005-06)

The Territory Wildlife Parks Government Business Division financial statements for 2004-05 were the responsibility of the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment and its successor the Department of Planning and Infrastructure. The Auditor-General conducted the audit of these financial statements in consultation with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure. This Agency has since received the audit report and taken on full responsibility for the Territory Wildlife Parks and its financial reporting.

The objective of the audit was to provide reasonable assurance that the financial report was free of material misstatement.

The audit found that the financial report of the Territory Wildlife Parks:

- Presents fairly the financial position of Territory Wildlife Parks at 30 June 2005, and its financial performance for the year ended on that date
- Is presented in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia and the requirements of the *Financial Management Act*.



Territory Wildlife Parks Audit of AIFRS conversion of 2004-05 Financial Statements (Audit completed 2005-06)

The objective of the audit was to review Territory Wildlife Parks' Australian International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS) conversion of its 2004-05 financial statement with the purpose to support the audit of the 2005-06 financial statements of the Government Business Division.

The audit review found that the Territory Wildlife Parks' assessment of the impact of AIFRS on the opening balances was satisfactory.

Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary and Marine Park Board Financial Statements 2004-05 (Audit completed 2005-06)

The objective of the audit was to examine the 2004-05 financial statements of the Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary and Marine Park Board for the year ended 30 June 2005 to form an opinion on the financial statements.

The Auditor-General issued a qualified audit opinion on the basis that the financial statements were not provided to the Minister within six months immediately following the end of the financial year as is required by the *Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land, Sanctuary and Marine Park Act*.

The Agency noted this and responded that its responsibility and capacity to complete the financial statements was absorbed in the administrative restructure of the new Agency. Financial reporting deadlines are on schedule for 2006-07.

Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park Board Financial Statements 2004-05 (Audit completed 2005-06)

The objective of the audit was to examine the 2004-05 financial statements of the Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park Board for the year ended 30 June 2005 to form an opinion on the financial statements.

The Auditor-General issued a qualified audit opinion on the basis that the financial statements were not provided to the Minister within six months immediately following the end of the financial year as is required by the *Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park Act*.

The Agency noted this and responded that its responsibility and capacity to complete the financial statements was absorbed in the administrative restructure of the new Agency. Financial reporting deadlines are on schedule for 2006-07.

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 audited acquittal. The following audited acquittals were provided during the 2005-06 financial year.

Regional Arts Fund Program

In February 2006, the Regional Arts Fund Program was audited. The primary purpose of this audit was to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence to form an opinion on the expenditure under the Regional Arts Fund program. The audit was limited to the expenditure of those funds granted to the Territory from the Australian Government Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts for the financial year ended 30 June 2005. The audit confirmed that all the funds supplied by the Australian Government under this program were fully expended.

Australia's Virtual Herbarium Project

In December 2005, an audit conducted certified that the Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2004 and 30 June 2005 for the Australia's Virtual Herbarium Trust project was true and correct.

Ethical and Responsible Decision Making

Employees are expected to act in a professional manner and with the utmost integrity, fairness and impartiality in their dealings with external parties and with one another.

Policies and procedures are in place to promote ethical conduct including:

- 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.

Workshops titled 'Doing the Right Thing' were also provided for employees to enhance their knowledge of ethical business practices and to provide strategies for dealing with situations which arise that could lead to compromising situations or perceptions.



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 developed a range of 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 to be corrected
- Specify an address to which correspondence regarding the application may be sent
- Where applicable, include the application fee of \$30.

Applications can be lodged via post, facsimile or email.

Manager Information Unit

PO Box 30

Palmerston NT 0831

08 8999 4723 (fax)

foi.nreta@nt.gov.au

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

Requests for Access to Information in 2005-06

In 2005-06, the Agency responded to three formal information access requests. Two were for government information and one was for personal information. No applications were refused, however one government request was subsequently withdrawn. One was completed within the statutory timeframe and the other was ongoing at 30 June 2006.

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 Information Services 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 can be found at <http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/publications/>

Ombudsman Enquiries

There were no Ombudsman enquiries in 2005-06.

Community Engagement

The Agency engaged with members of the community in a number of ways during 2005-06. 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 and the Division responsible.

Output Group: Parks and Reserves

Parks Division

- Collected personal contemporary history stories from Indigenous people connected with Litchfield National Park to use in the interpretation display planned for the visitor centre at Wangi.
- Conducted Territory Parks Alive, a Territory wide program of free walks and talks offered to Park visitors between May and October. In 2005, 12 197 visitors attended Parks Alive talks and activities. Fifty different talks and activities were held in 28 Parks and Reserves, providing 810 visitor contact opportunities throughout the regions.
- Held a community meeting at Howard Springs to develop the draft Plan of Management for the Howard Springs Nature Park.
- Invited public comment on the report into the area acquired for Channel Point Coastal Reserve. This included consultation with major stakeholders such as Traditional Owners, the Amateur Fishermen's Association of the Northern Territory, and the Channel Point residents through the Channel Point Management Board.
- Held public meetings about the Litchfield National Park Plan of Management.
- Conducted park visitor satisfaction surveys in National Parks managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service across the Territory.
- Invited applications for membership of two Community Advisory Committees for Casuarina Coastal Reserve and Knuckey Lagoons Conservation Reserve to provide advice on the management, use and future development of the Reserves.
- Conducted joint management camps and meetings across the Northern Territory to determine Indigenous aspirations for cooperatively managed Parks and Reserves. This resulted in establishing frameworks for statements of management intent; proposed commercial developments; governance structures, training and capacity building requirements.
- Invited public comment on the Cobourg Marine Park Plan of Management.
- Hosted Heritage Night at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station, an annual event that has been celebrated in Alice Springs since 1988. This non profit community event aims to show people what life was like in the early years at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station.
- Liaised with neighbouring landholders across the Northern Territory to develop feral animal removal programs (cattle, horses, donkeys, pigs).
- Conducted a public awareness campaign about the new dog and horse regulations for Casuarina Coastal Reserve.



corporate governance

- Continued the popular turtle release program at Casuarina Coastal Reserve, which has hundreds of community members on the waiting list. Conducted as a public educational exercise, ranger involvement ensures turtle eggs are protected for such an exercise.
- Facilitated school and community visits to undertake community education on a variety of environmental topics throughout the Territory.

Output Group: Biological Parks

Biological Parks Division

Alice Springs Desert Park

- Consulted with several tourism operators to design the new Backpackers Day product.
- Developed the brief for the Red Centre Way consultancy, which has made broad contact with business and community and will develop a plan to help design infrastructure along the Red Centre Way.
- Continued to consult with Traditional Owners on all developments at the Park.
- Continued to stay in constant contact with Tourism NT in order to design products to better meet tourist expectations.
- Worked with four other Alice Springs tourism venues to create a five venue pass.
- Delivered Big November Night, a free night of entertainment for the people of Alice Springs.
- Undertook regular visitor surveys.

Territory Wildlife Park

- Delivered two major community events, the Coke Zero day and the Darwin Symphony Orchestra concert.

- Met several times with the Traditional custodians of sacred sites on the property and with other Indigenous people to improve Indigenous input and expression in the Park.
- Conducted regular visitor surveys including a survey of visitor responses to different enclosures and displays.
- Met with other local tourism operators to better integrate new products.

George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens

- Worked with long term Darwin residents to develop a better understanding of the history of the Gardens.
- Helped establish a Sorry Day memorial on the site.
- Worked to deliver the Tropical Garden Spectacular and significant parts of the Darwin Festival held at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.
- Consulted with various community groups to plan the children's garden redevelopment.

Windows on the Wetlands

- Engaged with Traditional Owners through a series of meetings, achieving a commitment from both groups to increase Indigenous content and input and develop further opportunities for Indigenous employment.

Output Group: Natural Resources

Biodiversity Conservation Division

- Engaged in a series of collaborative biodiversity surveys and monitoring projects undertaken jointly with Traditional Owners, Indigenous ranger groups and other stakeholders at Groote Eylandt and its surrounding islands, the Wessel Islands, English Company Islands and adjacent mainland of north-eastern Arnhem Land, the Tiwi Islands and Gregory National Park.

- Continued consulting with the pastoral industry and developed a large-scale trial to assess the responses of biodiversity to a range of grazing regimes at Pigeon Hole in the Victoria River District.
- Disseminated the results from the above mentioned ongoing study to pastoral and other interests through a range of materials, presentations and field days.
- Started developing, in partnership with the Tropical Savannas Cooperative Research Centre, a major project to develop an interactive website to allow easy public access to all available relevant biodiversity information for the Territory.
- Continued to publish a broad range of information on biodiversity issues, through presentations at diverse forums, stories in popular press, technical reports and articles in the scientific press.
- Conducted broad-based consultation and sought public input to complete recovery plans for threatened plants and animals, including for the bilby, marsupial mole, Tiwi plants, threatened species of *Boronia* and the Gove Crow butterfly.
- Engaged with landholders to develop management actions for reducing the impact of large vertebrate pest animals on the natural landscape.
- Consulted extensively with the Alice Springs Community on the draft Alice Springs Water Resource Strategy, which will establish a clear and simple framework to better manage the water resources of Alice Springs.
- Provided information to community groups in the Darwin rural area and to the Dundee Progress Association on water resource sustainability.
- Accepted an invitation from the Ramingining Resource Council to undertake a field-based review of saltwater intrusion in the Arafura Swamp. The Indigenous Land Corporation will fund a report on options to remediate ongoing saltwater intrusion.
- Worked closely with groups such as the Australian Institute of Marine Science on the hydrodynamics and sediment transport in Territory coastal areas including Darwin Harbour, Melville Bay (Gove) and the Daly River estuary. Associations were also formed with the Charles Darwin University and CSIRO on related work.
- Continued to work in partnership with hydrographers and weather forecasters at the Bureau of Meteorology to deliver forecasts of likely river heights in the Katherine, Daly, Victoria and Upper Roper River catchments. These forecasts are provided to the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services, who are responsible for issuing flood warnings to the public based on the river heights forecasts.

Land and Water Division

- Engaged with landholder groups such as the Northern Territory Horticultural Association, the Douglas Daly Progress Association, the Centralian Land Management Association and land councils to ensure that information on soil and vegetation resources is relevant and understood.



Natural Resource Management Division

- Engaged with landholders and industry groups on strategic weed management programs across the Territory.
- Coordinated regional fire mitigation and suppression work with Volunteer Bushfire Brigades, regional committees and individual landholders.
- Coordinated Territory Landcare Group activities across the Territory.
- Consulted with community and industry groups during the review of the *Pastoral Land Act*.
- Engaged in broad consultation with stakeholders to develop the Katherine Weed Management Strategy, and the Northern Territory Weed Risk Assessment model.
- Engaged closely with Indigenous landholders in western Arnhem Land to develop the West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement Agreement project. The aim is to increase employment, abate greenhouse gas and improve conservation outcomes as a result of improved fire management.

Output Groups: Environment Protection, Heritage and Conservation

Environment and Heritage Division

- Sought public comment whenever the Heritage Advisory Council proposed any place or object for inclusion into the Northern Territory Heritage Register (as required by the *Heritage Conservation Act*).
- Publicly exhibited all environmental impact assessment matters for comment according to statutory process.

- Supported the Environment Protection Agency Board to issue a discussion paper and host a series of information sessions and workshops across the Territory (Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine, Nhulunbuy and Borroloola) to elicit community and industry views about the final form and function of the Territory Environment Protection Agency. The Board will take these views into account in preparing recommendations for the Minister to consider.
- Engaged with various Northern Territory Government and private sector groups, including the construction industry, NT WorkSafe and the Motor Trades Group, in relation to issues generated by Pollution Hotline incidents.
- Engaged with Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee's Ecosystem Monitoring and Research Groups.
- Engaged with the Wangamaty Landcare Group, and the Nauiyu and Douglas-Daly communities on the quality of the Daly River as a partner to a Charles Darwin University project.
- Engaged and consulted with the community and focus groups to develop the draft Stormwater Strategy, which was released for public comment in April 2006.
- Organised and presented a highly successful Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee public seminar series "*Our Harbour, Our Life, Our Future*" at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. This included a presentation on the aquatic health of the Darwin Harbour region.

- Supported the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee (DHAC) to attend many shows and events that have attracted public attention. Displays were set up at World Environment Day in Darwin (sponsored by DHAC), the Darwin Seafood Festival, the Royal Darwin Show and the Tropical Garden Spectacular.

Output Groups: Scientific and Cultural Collections, Arts and Screen Industry Support

Arts and Museums Division

- Undertook targeted stakeholder consultation about the repeal and re-enactment of the *Strehlow Research Centre Act*.
- Mentored and coached university students, artists, teachers and curators conducting research, completing doctorates and conducting projects as part of co-museum agreements.
- Consulted with arts industry representatives including the Association of Northern, Kimberley and Arnhem Aboriginal Artists (ANKAA) and Desart, in relation to the introduction of an entry fee for the 23rd National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award (NATSIAA).
- Developed a partnership with the National Museum of Australia to enable remote communities to photograph their communities and present these photos in an exhibition at the Discovery Centre. Five schools from central Australia and four from the Top End were involved.
- Worked to repatriate and clarify custodianship of Aboriginal Ancestral Remains and Aboriginal Secret Sacred Objects from the Northern Territory. This has required extensive ongoing consultation with Aboriginal communities, the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) and other state museums.
- Conducted community consultation with stakeholders to develop the 2005-06 Discovery Centre public program to enhance and link student learning with educational outcomes. The Palmerston City Council, Palmerston Regional Business Association, Palmerston High School and the Multicultural Association of the Northern Territory were involved. Two 10 minute films were created as a result.
- Conducted grant writing workshops in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs to help artists and the community access the Arts Grants Program and write more successful grant applications.
- Facilitated seven Creative Volunteer Workshops in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. The one day workshops give formal skills development to enable volunteers from arts organisations across the Territory to work more effectively.
- Developed and hosted Creating Vision, a Territory Indigenous Screen Industry development workshop in partnership with Desert Knowledge Co-operative Research Centre and the Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development.



Corporate Communication

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

Internet and Intranet

The Agency created new Internet and Intranet sites following its establishment on 11 July 2005. The Internet site provides an on-line presence for the Agency to present its information and services to an ever expanding audience that use the World Wide Web as a data tool. The Agency received more than 200 emails through its Internet feedback mechanisms regarding its activities and requests for information. The Agency has received positive feedback from internal and external clients regarding the Internet site's ease of use.

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

Future Priorities

- Transfer data from the current website to adapt to the new look Northern Territory Government website.
- Update database functions for public use of information related to land management, mapping, telemetered sites and the Australian Virtual Herbarium.
- Refine the Intranet site to a more user friendly interface, incorporating suggestions following staff consultation on what they wanted on the Intranet.
- Create tools on the Intranet to further promote discussion between staff across the Territory on work related issues through an on-line staff forum.

Chief Executive's Newsletter

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

Media Release Distribution

The Marketing and Communications business unit issued 169 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 with Agency staff. Media training for 15 staff was also coordinated by the Marketing and Communications unit.

Friday Round Up

The Marketing and Communications business unit provides a weekly summation of the Agency's activities as covered by the media at a local, national and international level across all mediums. Friday Round Up is emailed to all staff for their information.

Secretariat

The Agency's Secretariat provides a coordination service between the Minister for Arts and Museums, Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage and Parks and Wildlife and the Chief Executive on all operational areas of the Agency. The Secretariat also provides administrative support with the coordination of statutory appointments for the Agency.

Secretariat Services	Number
Ministerial Correspondence Processed	1296
Cabinet Submissions	58
Cabinet Comments (other agencies)	78

Opposite Page

Main Photo:
Controlled burning at Serpentine Gorge

Inset:
Trevor Jansen
Bushfires NT

our people





Human Resources

Staff commitment and satisfaction is the most critical factor in achieving outcomes and ensuring our services are delivered effectively and efficiently.

The Human Resources Services unit provides specialist human resources policy and advice to management and staff on a range of people management issues. The unit supports the Agency in achieving its business outcomes and ensures it operates within the appropriate legislative frameworks.

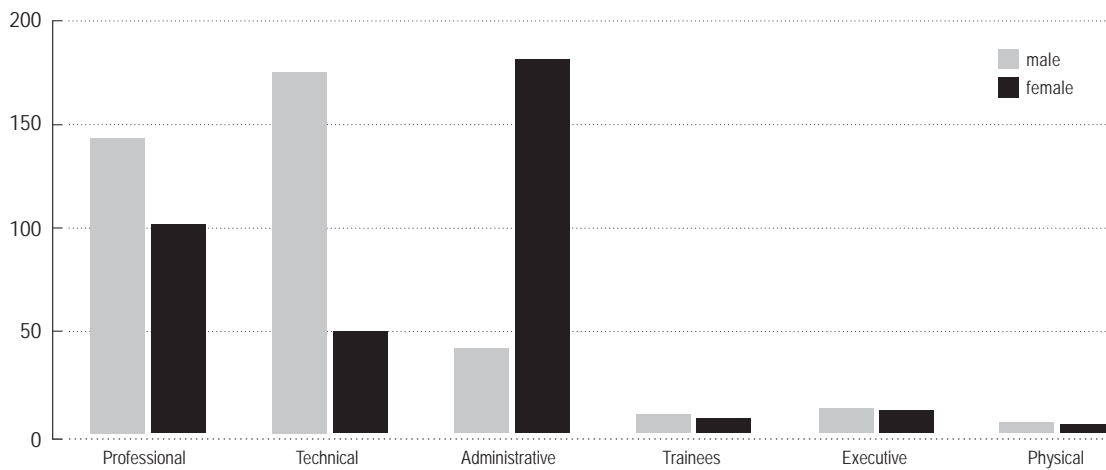
The Human Resources Services unit also promotes and builds Agency capacity through a number of learning, development and training programs. This includes an active early careers program aimed at meeting emerging business needs through the provision of entry level programs such as work experience, apprenticeships and traineeships.

Our Staff

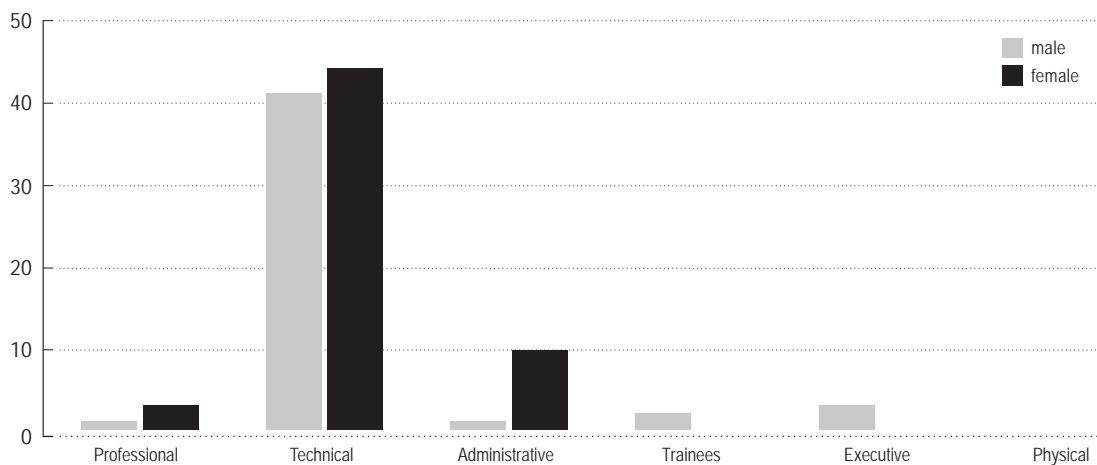
Our wide ranging Agency functions means we have a staff made up of a diverse range of people with a broad spectrum of expertise and abilities. There are 852 staff members in 50 locations across the Territory, in the major centres of Alice Springs, Darwin and Katherine and at a variety of remote ranger stations.

The Agency includes the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts and the Government Business Division, Territory Wildlife Parks, which is responsible for operating the Alice Springs Desert Park and the Territory Wildlife Park.

Staffing Stream Profile - Department



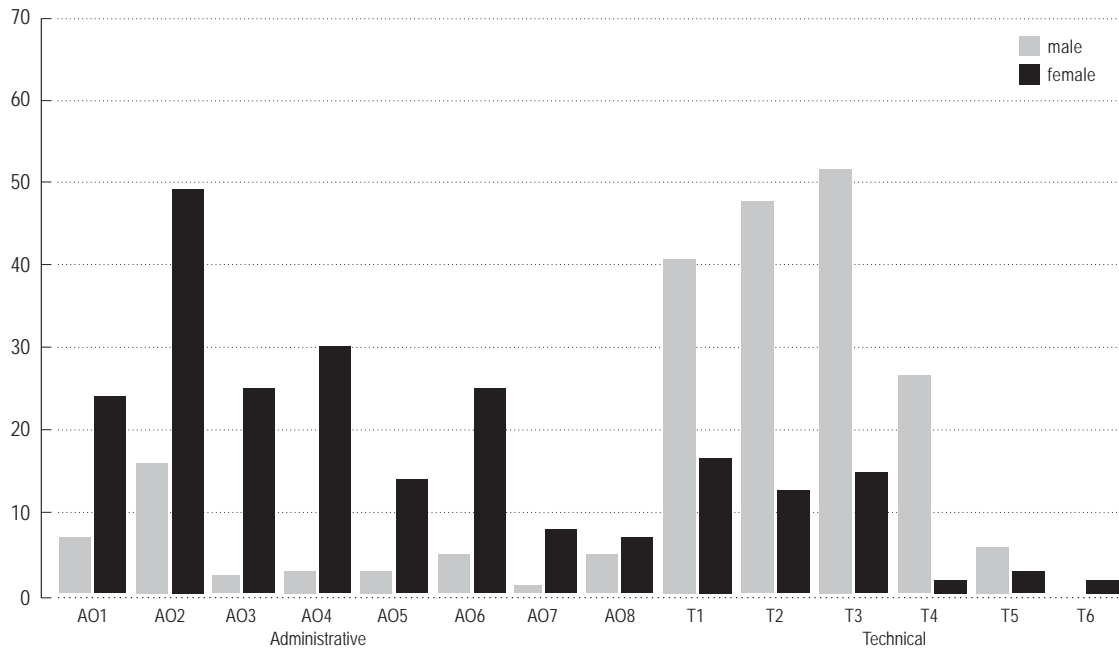
Staffing Stream Profile - Territory Wildlife Parks - GBD





our people

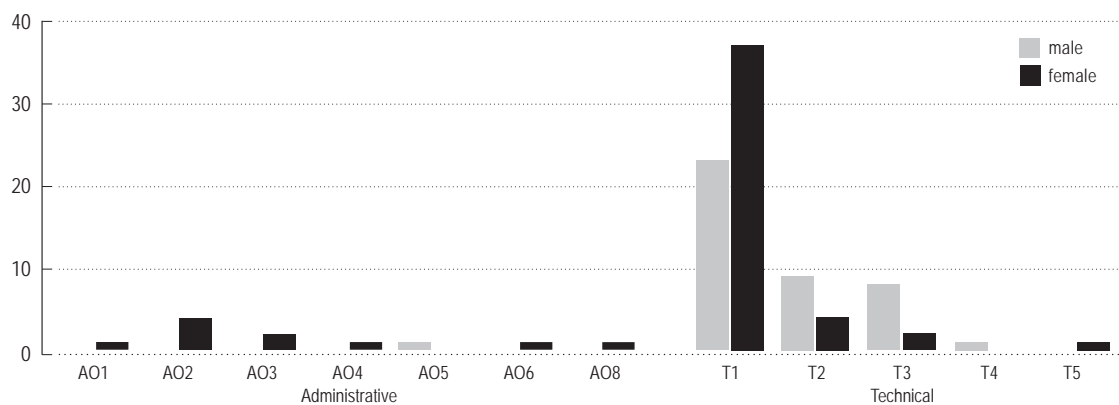
Staffing by Stream and Classification - Department



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

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

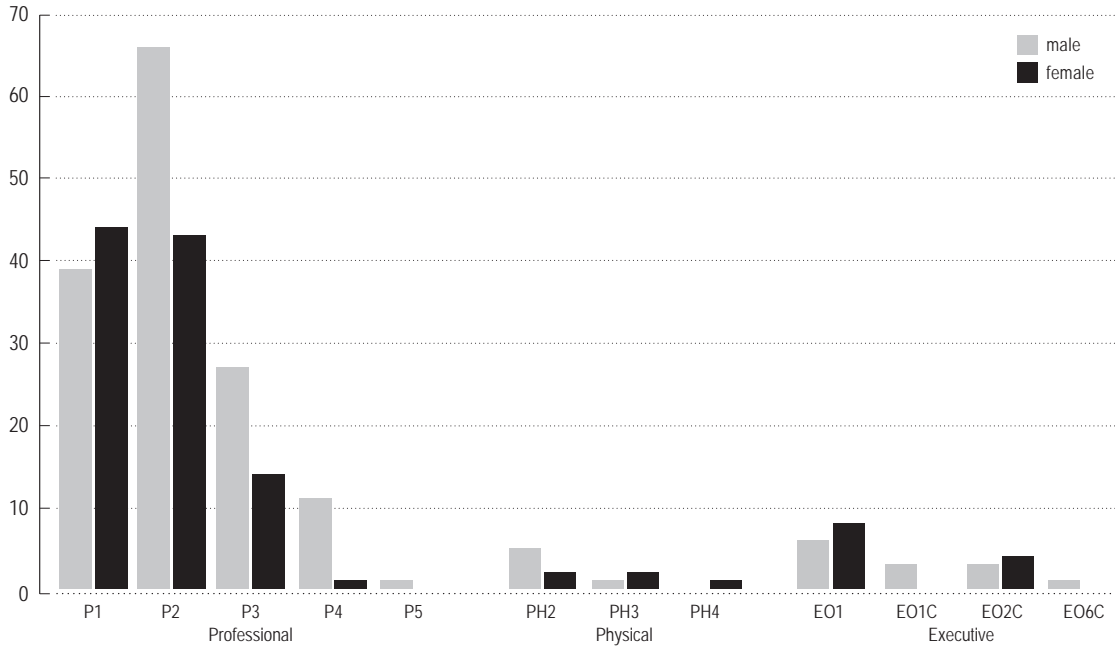
Staffing by Stream and Classification - Territory Wildlife Parks - GBD



Administrative Stream Occupations: Marketing Officer, Business Officer, General Administrative Assistant

Technical Stream Occupations: Zoo Keeper, Tour Guide, Horticulturalist, Facilities Maintenance Officer

Staffing by Stream and Classification - Department cont.



Professional Stream Occupations:

Scientist (eg Biodiversity, Ecologist, Marine, Botanist, Geophysicist, Geologist, 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)

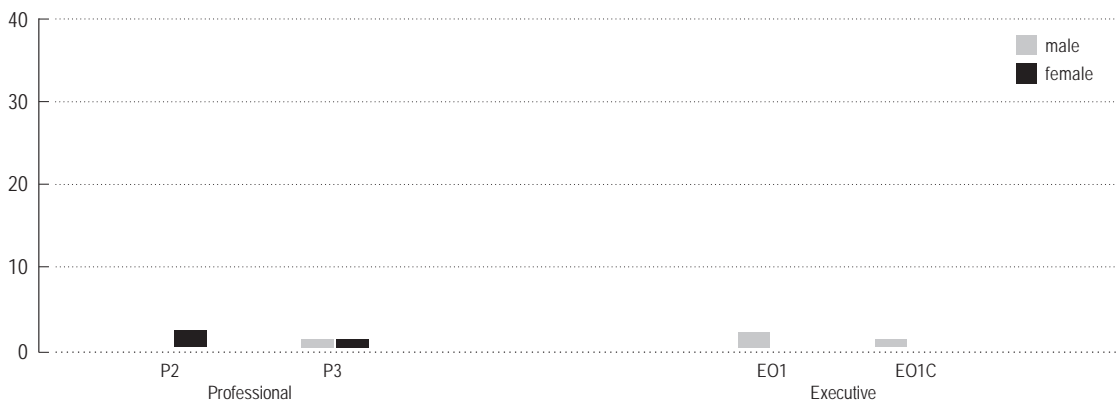
Physical Stream Occupations:

Cleaner, Park Maintenance Ranger

Executive Stream Occupations:

Chief Executive, Executive Director, Director

Staffing by Stream and Classification - Territory Wildlife Parks - GBD cont.



Professional Stream Occupations:

Botanist, Zoologist, Curator

Executive Stream Occupations:

Executive Director, Director



Significant Strategies Implemented

In this reporting period the focus has been on establishing the support structure for the Agency. There has also been priority given to Indigenous employment including development of a series of mentoring workshops aimed at capacity development for supervisors of Indigenous apprentices. A draft Indigenous Career Development Strategy was also developed and is currently being trialed.

A new Management Reporting format was introduced. The new format is designed to support managers by providing relevant staffing information. The reports include salary, higher duties allowance, full time equivalent, leave without pay, leave credits, recruitment management system, probation and separations.

Work was also undertaken with the Executive Management Group to develop a culture survey to be implemented across the Agency. The survey will gather data on how people experience working within the organisation.

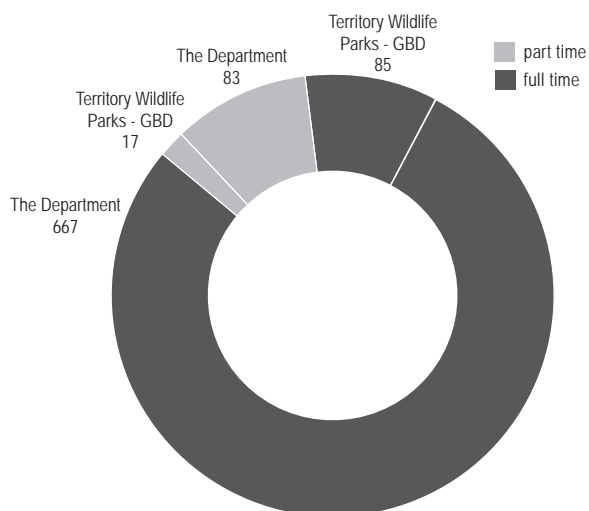
Diversity

The Agency has a diverse workforce and is committed to recognising and supporting its employees. Workplace diversity is about acknowledging differences and adapting work practices to create an inclusive environment in which our diverse skills, perspectives and backgrounds are valued. Diversity in the Agency is promoted through its Diversity Policy, which acknowledges the contribution that we all make to a workplace that is free from discrimination and harassment. The Agency also has representation on the Senior Reference Group for Multicultural Affairs.

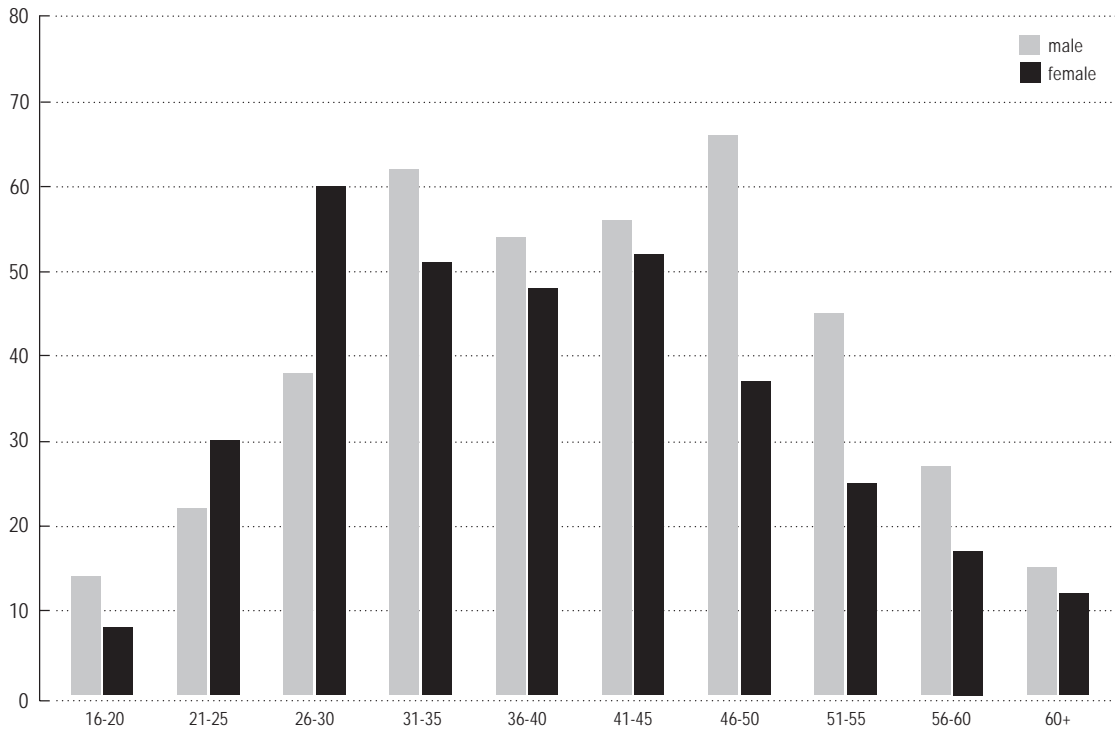
Some of the activities that demonstrate the Agency's commitment to diversity include the cross cultural training of 105 staff members in the Top End, the employment of two tour guide apprentices with a disability and the permanent placement of one trainee with a disability.

The Agency supports work-life balance requests and has a number of flexible arrangements in place. These include part time and job sharing arrangements, long and short term arrangements for working from home as well as one employee working interstate.

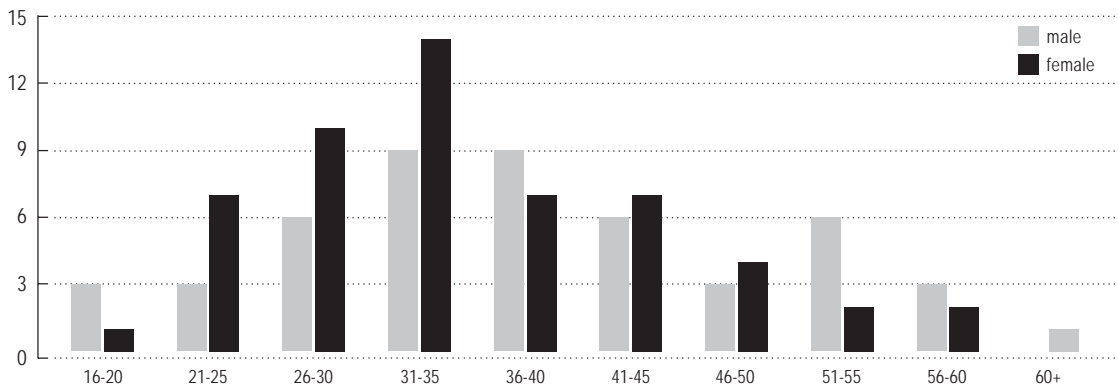
Staffing by Employment Status - Agency



Staffing by Age - Department



Staffing by Age - Territory Wildlife Parks - GBD





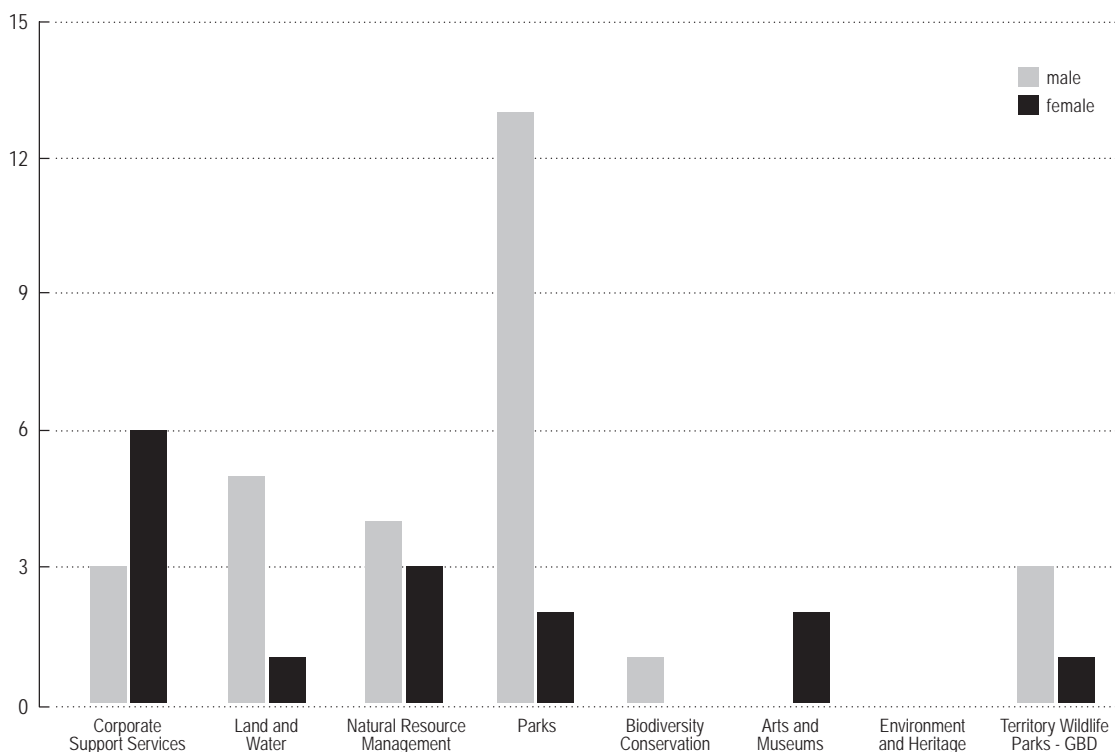
Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)

The Agency is committed to meeting its statutory equal employment obligations and to ensure fairness in relation to employment procedures. It strives to maintain an environment that is free from bullying, harassment and discriminatory practices by encouraging staff to undertake anti-discrimination, harassment and cross cultural training.

Sixty eight percent of staff have recorded their EEO details in the Personnel Integrated Pay System (PIPS). This data is recorded to assist in developing workforce strategies and to monitor Indigenous employment.

The number of self-identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) employees within the Agency is as follows:

Staff Identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander - Agency



Note: Identification as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) is voluntary. Therefore the data in the table above cannot be guaranteed as accurately reflecting the diversity in the Agency. Further efforts will be made by the Agency in 2006-07 to encourage staff to provide their EEO details in the myHR database.

Trainees

The Agency offers a range of early careers programs aimed at 'growing our own staff' by providing a range of entry level programs such as work experience, school-based and adult apprenticeships, Indigenous cadetships for those who are ready for university and graduate traineeships for those who have already completed their tertiary education.

Apprenticeships

The New Apprenticeship Program provides Territorians with the opportunity to gain a qualification through structured employment and training with the Agency. The length of the program is dependent on the discipline that the apprentice will undertake and could range from 12 months to three years. Generally, Certificate III level qualifications in a wide range of disciplines are offered.

In 2005-06 the Agency employed or hosted two school-based and 15 adult apprentices in the areas of Business, Conservation and Land Management and Horticulture.

Indigenous Cadets

The National Indigenous Cadetship is a career development program for Indigenous people which offers financial support during their tertiary studies. Cadets must be accepted into a degree program at a nationally recognised institution. The length of the program is dependent on the length of the degree – usually three or four years. During semester breaks the Cadet is provided with the opportunity to put their learning into practice and undertake work projects in their area of study. Upon successful completion of a degree course, the Cadet will be offered a permanent position with the Northern Territory Public Sector.

Seven cadets were employed with the Agency; two continued their cadetships into 2006-07, two left the Program, two were temporarily placed in positions within the Agency and one was permanently appointed.

Graduate Trainees

The Graduate Traineeship Program (GDP) gives university graduates the opportunity to begin their career with the Agency in an environment that continues their professional training in a supervised workplace. A successful applicant will be offered a placement on the two year Graduate Development Program which combines formal training with on-the-job training. During this time, the graduate is rotated throughout the Agency to broaden their skills and experience.

In 2005-06 eight graduate employees were employed with the Agency; three continued their traineeships into 2006-07, and five were permanently appointed to positions.

Careers Expos

The Agency was represented at high school careers expos around the Northern Territory and also at the Charles Darwin University's Graduate Recruitment Fair.



Indigenous Career Development

In 2005-06 the Agency employed seven Indigenous cadets.

Two Indigenous graduate trainees were employed, with one being permanently placed in a professional position during the period.

A core principle of the Northern Territory Government's approach to joint management of National Parks and Reserves is ensuring management programs incorporate Indigenous cultural values such as bush foods, medicines, sacred sites, non sacred story places, travelling routes, names and Indigenous campgrounds.

One way of ensuring this cultural knowledge is incorporated into actual practice, and not just into management plans, has been to employ Indigenous trainee rangers who originate from the 'country' in which a National Park has been established. In November 2005 four trainee rangers were employed: three in Alice Springs and one at Tennant Creek. The trainees work with Parks and Wildlife Service rangers while studying a Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management. On successfully completing their traineeships, the trainees will have the option of joining the ranger workforce.

The traineeship program has been successful and is contributing towards capacity building in the local Indigenous community. The trainees are developing skills, knowledge and understanding about Park governance and planning, as well as how commercial enterprises operate on Parks.

The Agency employed 13 Indigenous apprentices (out of a total of 15 apprentices) in 2005-06. Four Indigenous apprentices were permanently placed in the Agency, and two were placed in temporary positions. Three Indigenous apprentices ceased before completing their apprenticeship.

Learning and Professional Development

The Agency encourages the professional development of staff to ensure they are adequately equipped to carry out their responsibilities.

Staff development during the 2005-06 year was strongly endorsed through employee attendance at conferences, seminars and workshops in addition to formal study equating to approximately \$480 per person during the year.

The key areas of professional training and development during the 2005-06 year were:

Professional Workshops

These workshops focused on areas related to the Agency's core functions and included Geographic Information Systems (GIS) training, Water in the Bush, fire fighting, arboriculture, chemical handling, interpretive techniques, tour guiding, enforcement and firearms training, drilling and drilling management.

Equity and Diversity Awareness Training

This training included courses on cross cultural awareness, anti discrimination and Indigenous languages.

Personal Skills Development Short Courses

This included courses on project management, the *Information Act*, Microsoft Office, report writing, supervision for new managers, policy writing, communication and team work, interview skills and facilitation skills.

Occupational Health and Safety Training

This included training in first aid, fire safety and emergency procedures, disaster recovery, manual handling and risk assessment.

P1/P2 Progression Scheme

In 2005-06, the Agency had seven identified positions under the P1/P2 Progression Scheme.

This scheme supports professional development within the Northern Territory Public Sector by enabling the P1 to develop and apply later for progression to the P2 level.

The scheme allows agencies to advertise an identified P2 position as a P1/P2 and fill depending on the applicant's skills and expertise. The scheme is designed to broaden the employment net particularly in areas where skill shortages don't provide the level of expertise required to immediately perform at the P2 level.

Staff Training and Development

	Territory Wildlife Parks - GBD	The Department	The Agency
Total employees	105	747	852
Total training and development expenditure	\$47 951	\$362 724	\$410 675
Total personnel expenditure	\$5 358 810	\$47 043 711	\$52 402 521
Training and development costs as a percentage of personnel expenditure	0.89%	0.77%	0.78%
Training expenditure per employee	\$456	\$485	\$482



Training

Corporate Training

More than 477 people took part in corporate training initiatives in 2005-06 including:

- How to Write a Job Analysis Questionnaire
- Job Evaluation System Training
- Mentoring
- It's Your Move: You And Your Career
- Cross Cultural Training
- Team Management Skills
- Code of Conduct
- TRIM Context Training and Information Sessions
- Certificate II in Government – *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*
- Media Training

Management Training

Public Sector Management Program

Ten staff members graduated from the Public Sector Management Program with two staff winning awards for academic achievement (out of four awards in total).

Gender Specific Training

Kigaruk Indigenous Men's Leadership Development Program

One Indigenous staff member from the Alice Springs Desert Park participated in this program.

Scholarships

Three members of staff from remote areas won scholarships through the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment's Remote Workforce Development Strategy to undertake further studies or attend interstate conferences in line with their career aspirations.

Studies Assistance

Studies assistance was used by 51 staff to undertake studies ranging from certificates to masters qualifications. The Agency strongly supports employees gaining relevant professional, technical and other skills through tertiary study.

Induction and Probation

As a new Agency an induction program has been developed to provide new employees with a snapshot of the Agency including its strategic directions, core business and outcomes.

This program provides employees with information about conditions of service, the Code of Conduct, probation, employee entitlements, Occupational Health and Safety and how to access information on the Agency's Intranet site.

This program will be offered regularly in Darwin and Alice Springs, with visits to Tennant Creek and Katherine.

In 2005-06, 48 employees were subject to probation. The outcomes were as follows:

Employee Probation

Outcome	Number of Employees
Currently under probation	13
Confirmed at 3 months (within probation period)	12
Confirmed at 6 months (within probation period)	12
Probation extended to 12 months	2
Resigned	2
Transferred to Executive Contract	1
Probation automatically confirmed	6
Total	48



Reporting against Employment Instructions

Under the *Public Sector Employment Management Act* Chief Executive Officers are required to meet annual reporting requirements regarding employment and management processes within their agency.

The following table shows details of Employment Instructions and Agency action against each Employment Instruction.

Employment Instruction and Agency Requirements	Agency Action
<p>No 1. Advertising, Selection, Appointment, Transfer and Promotion Agency to develop procedures on recruitment and selection for internal use.</p> <p>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 147 applicants were selected for positions advertised through the Employment Opportunities Website.</p> <p>Fifty one short term vacancies were advertised across the Agency as development opportunities to assist in broadening skills and understanding of organisational goals and objectives.</p> <p>During the reporting period one promotion appeal was lodged, this appeal then lapsed. There were no outstanding appeals at the end of the reporting period.</p>
<p>No 2. Probation 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 where new employees are directed.</p> <p>Human Resource Services provided fortnightly reports to senior management on the status of staff probations.</p>
<p>No 3. Natural Justice The rules of natural justice to be observed in all dealings with employees.</p>	<p>The principles of natural justice are observed in all dealings with employees.</p>
<p>No 4. Performance Management Chief Executive is to report annually on management training and staff development programs.</p> <p>Chief Executive shall develop and implement performance management systems for their Agency.</p>	<p>Staff participated in Performance Agreements as a mechanism for each employee to seek constructive feedback. This involved employees discussing with their manager skill gaps, career plans, mentoring and or training to meet individual and work unit goals.</p>

Employment Instruction and Agency Requirements	Agency Action
<p>No 5. Medical Incapacity No Agency action or reporting requirements.</p>	<p>Advice is provided to managers as required by Human Resource staff.</p>
<p>No 6. Inability to Discharge Duties Chief Executive to provide the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment with information on the extent to which this Employment Instruction has been used by the Agency.</p> <p>Chief Executive may establish procedures regarding this Employment Instruction within their Agency.</p>	<p>Section 44 Inability to Discharge Duties action was undertaken against one employee during the reporting period. The proceedings were still underway at the end of the reporting period.</p>
<p>No 7. Discipline Chief Executive to provide the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment with information on the extent to which this Employment Instruction has been used by the Agency.</p> <p>Chief Executive may establish procedures regarding Discipline within their Agency.</p>	<p>An investigation was undertaken in relation to Section 49 Discipline action against one employee during the reporting period. The investigation was still underway at the end of the reporting period.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>The Agency's Grievance Policy is available on the Intranet.</p> <p>A total of four Section 59 Grievances were received during the reporting period, one from Alice Springs, one from Katherine and two from Darwin. Two were referred back to the Agency and resolved by this process. Of the two formal grievances lodged, in one case the Agency's action was confirmed and in the other case the Agency was directed to take action. There were no outstanding grievances at the end of the reporting period.</p>
<p>No 9. (Incorporated in Employment Instruction 1).</p>	
<p>No 10. Employee Records Agencies are required to maintain appropriate employee records and implement procedures for maintaining and accessing these records.</p>	<p>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.</p>



Employment Instruction and Agency Requirements	Agency Action
<p>No 11. Equal Employment Opportunity Management Programs Chief Executive to devise and implement programs to ensure equal employment opportunities and outcomes are achieved.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Equal Employment Policies are available on the Agency's Intranet.</p> <p>Details of programs are provided earlier in this section of the report.</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The Occupational Health and Safety policy and procedures information is available on the Agency's Intranet.</p> <p>Workplace inspections on behalf of the Agency are conducted by the Department of Corporate and Information Services' Occupational Health and Safety staff.</p> <p>Fire and evacuation training was provided for Fire Wardens.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Staff are provided with a copy of the Code of Conduct booklet as part of their commencement package.</p> <p>Staff have access to the electronic version of the Code of Conduct booklet via the Northern Territory Government Intranet.</p> <p>Code of Conduct training was held in Darwin and 43 employees attended.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>The Agency is supportive of part time working arrangements and other flexible arrangements.</p> <p>At the end of 2005-06, 102 employees were working on a part time basis. Of the employees who worked part time, 71 were females and 31 were male.</p>

Industrial Relations

As part of the *Northern Territory Public Sector 2004-2007 Certified Agreement*, all Physical and Technical classification positions that have not been evaluated since 1 August 2002 are required to be reviewed by January 2007.

The Agency has over 370 positions affected by the review across the Physical and Technical classifications. To help with the review, 99 employees attended corporate training on How to Write a Job Analysis Questionnaire and a further 32 attended training to become a Job Evaluation System Evaluator.

The relevant unions have been consulted in relation to all aspects of the review.

Occupational Health and Safety

The Agency works in conjunction with the Department of Corporate and Information Services' Work Place Injury Solutions unit to provide an Occupational Health and Safety program. The Agency used the following services: Workplace and Workstation Inspections, Hazard Inspections, Training Courses, Advice and Assistance and Compensation Claims Management.

A total of 65 accident and injury reports were received in the reporting period, of which 32 resulted in a claim for workers' compensation.

Workers' Compensation Claims

Type of Claim	Number of Claims
Lost Time Injuries	22
Medical Expenses Only	10
TOTAL	32

A total of \$390 588.50 was spent on these and existing open claims in 2005-06.

As part of the induction program, new employees are introduced to the Agency's Intranet site and are encouraged to become familiar with the contents of the Occupational Health and Safety information. New and existing employees are also encouraged to attend Occupational Health and Safety courses relevant to their work areas.

An early intervention program was introduced across the Agency and this has resulted in a slight reduction in the number of compensation claims being lodged for minor medical cost only injuries. The effectiveness and efficiency of the program will be reviewed and refined as required in 2006-07.



our people

Employee Assistance Program

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

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

Northern Territory Public Sector-wide Strategies

The Agency is committed to meeting its responsibilities in relation to the key whole of government employment strategies.

The Agency is represented on the following committees:

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

Employee Participation

Performance Agreement discussions were conducted throughout the Agency. Discussions enabled staff to highlight achievements, receive feedback on performance against their job requirements and their contribution to the business plan for their unit. This process also provided an opportunity for staff to discuss their career plans, skill gaps and training requirements with their supervisor.

Future Priorities

- Conduct a culture survey to gather data on how people experience working in the organisation. The information gathered will assist in building the leadership and organisational capability of the organisation and will inform strategy and leadership development decisions.
- Implement the new induction program, which has been developed to provide new employees with a snapshot of the Agency as well as information such as conditions of service, the Code of Conduct, probation, employee entitlements and Occupational Health and Safety. This program will be offered on a regular basis in Darwin and Alice Springs, with visits to Tennant Creek and Katherine.

Opposite Page

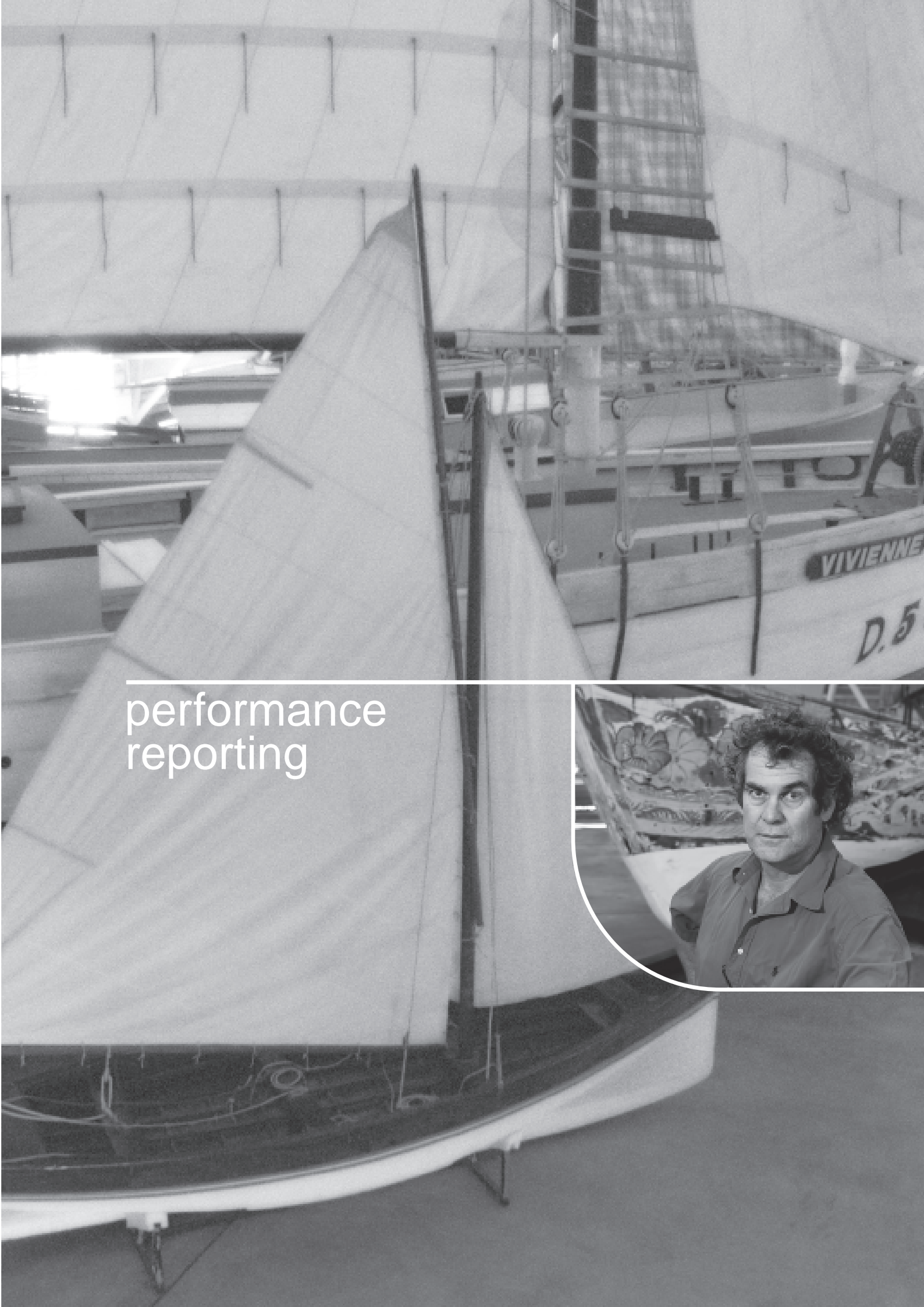
Main Photo:

The Maritime Gallery

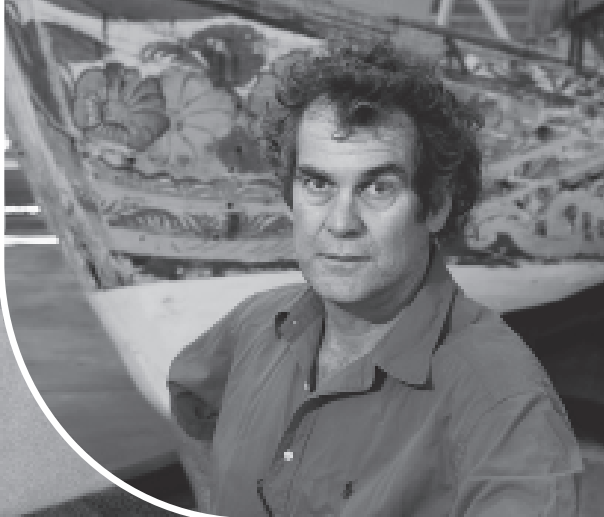
Inset:

Paul Clark

Museums and Art Galleries
of the Northern Territory



performance
reporting





Working for Outcomes

The *Working for Outcomes* framework provides the foundations for Agency monitoring, evaluating and reporting on performance, in terms of the specification and measurement of the delivery of Outputs to the Territory community.

The Agency redefined its Outputs after its creation in 2005-06 to better reflect the responsibilities entrusted to it by Government. The redefined Outputs were first published in the 2006-07 Northern Territory Budget, in Budget Paper 3 The Budget, and encompassed revised estimates for 2005-06 against the new Outputs.

The table on the following page links the Outputs relevant to the activities that transferred to the Department in July 2005 as they were presented in Budget Paper 3 2005-06, with the new revised Outputs presented in the 2006-07 Budget and in this report.

Old Output Groups and Outputs

Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment

Office of Environment and Heritage

- Environment Protection Services
- Heritage and Conservation Services
- Greenhouse Policy

Conservation and Natural Resources

- Policy and Planning
- Parks and Reserves Management
- Natural Resource Management
- Biodiversity
- Natural Systems

Department of Community Development,
Sport and Cultural Affairs

Arts, Museums and Library Services

- Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory
- Arts Industry Support
- Alice Springs Cultural Precinct

As reported in Budget Paper 3 2005-06

New Output Groups and Outputs

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts

Environment Protection

- Environment Protection Agency

Heritage and Conservation

- Heritage and Conservation Services

Parks and Reserves

- Parks Joint Management Programs
- Parks and Reserves Management Programs
- Regulation and Enforcement for Conservation

Biological Parks

- Visitor and Education Facilities
- Botanic Gardens

Natural Resources

- Natural Resource Assessment
- Natural Resource Management Activities
- Natural Resource Regulation and Enforcement
- Flood Forecasting
- Hydrographic and Drilling

Scientific and Cultural Collections

- Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory
- Herbarium

Arts and Screen Industry Support

- Arts and Screen Sector
- The Araluen Centre

As reported in Budget Paper 3 2006-07



performance reporting

output group: parks and reserves

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* 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 92 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: 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.

Key Achievements in 2005-06

- Held numerous joint management forums to clarify the roles of participants and establish employment, training and program strategies.
- Progressed a higher than expected number of programs due to the good working relationship between Departmental officers and Traditional Owners.
- Conducted ranger training camps that addressed cultural issues, fire awareness, skills in four wheel driving, safety, first aid and fencing maintenance.
- Held operational management meetings with Traditional Owners in relation to Litchfield, Umbrawarra Gorge and Douglas Hot Springs Parks, and Parks within the Adelaide, Mary and McKinlay river areas.
- Conducted training sessions for Traditional Owners to equip them for full time employment in northern region Parks.
- Formed a Board of Management for the Gregory National Park.
- Finalised the 20 year Commercial Development Plan for Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park to develop tourism infrastructure to increase the economic opportunities for the Jawoyn people.
- Established a joint management working group for the Flora River Nature Park.

- Conducted training sessions for Katherine region Traditional Owners in fencing, walking track and other maintenance areas and cross cultural awareness sessions for rangers.
- Established a Flexible Employment Program to provide for casual and flexible work training opportunities in southern region Parks.
- Progressed management programs for Rainbow Valley and the Devils Marbles Conservation Reserves and the West MacDonnell Ranges National Park.
- Commenced traineeships for three Traditional Owners at Alice Springs Telegraph Station and one at Tennant Creek.

Challenges in 2005-06

- Forging strong partnerships with Traditional Owners to progress joint management plans and retain Indigenous trainees.

Future Priorities

- Progress and finalise joint management plans across the Territory.
- Increase the intake and retention of Indigenous trainees and rangers through the Flexible Employment Program.

Performance Measures Parks Joint Management Programs	05-06 Estimate	05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate
Quantity			
Joint management programs being implemented	9	9	11
Proportion of programs progressed	33%	42%	41%
Quality			
Stakeholder satisfaction with programs ¹	65%	65%	65%

Notes

1. Stakeholder satisfaction measures satisfaction with the delivery and implementation of management programs, which is measured through stakeholder feedback.



performance reporting

output group: parks and reserves

Output: Parks and Reserves Management Programs

Parks and Reserves Management Programs aim to protect the biodiversity within the Northern Territory's Park estate, create commercial, educational and recreational opportunities and produce management plans that serve the needs of visitors and the wider community.

Key Achievements in 2005-06

- Implemented the Tour Operator Permit System, resulting in all tour operators requiring a permit to conduct business in a Park or Reserve.
- Continued the Junior Ranger program, enabling children aged between nine and 14 to become involved with appropriate park programs.
- Developed management plans for a number of significant Parks and Reserves.
- Conducted educational and interpretative sessions for visitors and community groups.
- Continued ranger talks and walks and community involvement with the release of baby turtles.
- Developed management plans for Cobourg Marine Park, Channel Point and Wangi Falls.
- Established Community Advisory Committees for Casuarina Coastal and Knuckey Lagoons Conservation Reserves.
- Installed interpretational and directional signs at a number of high use Parks in the northern region.
- Refurbished Howard Springs Nature Park pool to enable swimming.
- Rehabilitated sand dunes at Casuarina Coastal Reserve.
- Completed repairs to infrastructure damaged by Tropical Cyclone Monica at Garig Gunak Barlu National Park.
- Improved access to the Victoria River by constructing a boat ramp at Gregory Creek.
- Implemented a management plan for Bulwaddy.
- Installed interpretative displays throughout the Katherine region, in particular at Bullita Homestead in Gregory National Park and Nganalam in Keep River National Park.
- Contributed to FrogWatch's community-based educational activities and Katherine's Flying Fox Festival.
- Increased the ranger presence within Nitmiluk National Park with the construction of two elevated houses.
- Progressed the West MacDonnell Ranges' nomination for World Heritage Listing.
- Revised the Larapinta Trail information to attract more visitors.
- Extended the Parks Alive presentations and relocated them to the Alice Springs Town Council precinct.

Challenges in 2005-06

- Meeting visitor expectations while balancing the competing objective of maintaining a world standard National Park estate.
- The late wet season flooding at Berry Springs and Nitmiluk National Park, and the effects from Tropical Cyclone Monica presented challenges to repair infrastructure damage before the start of the dry season. Visitor surveys indicated only a 65 percent satisfaction rate.

Future Priorities

- Complete plans of management and implement sections of the program including new interpretative signs and other Park infrastructure.
- Upgrade and extend visitor facilities and walking trails.
- Implement further enhancements to the Tour Operator Permit system.
- Press for the West MacDonnell Ranges' World Heritage listing to be progressed.

Performance Measures Parks and Reserves Management Programs	05-06 Estimate	05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate
Quantity			
Stakeholder programs implemented ¹	62	62	62
Management plans produced (excluding joint management plans) ²	27	27	27
Parks managed	63	63	63
Quality			
Visitor and stakeholder satisfaction with management programs ³	65%	65%	65%

Notes

1. Each district has two programs in addition to a program for each of the Cobourg, Nitmiluk, Barranyi, Djukbinj and Tnorala Boards and a major program for each of the three major planning regions.
2. Territory Parks and Reserves are divided into the three regions of Parks North, Parks Katherine and Parks South, each having nine management districts. A plan of management covers several years. A management program is developed for each financial year encompassing work or action plans, conservation management, weed, fire and feral animal, ranger walks and talks program and infrastructure additions, repairs and maintenance.
3. Visitor and stakeholder satisfaction measures satisfaction with the delivery and implementation of management programs. It is measured through visitor surveys and stakeholder feedback.



performance reporting

output group: parks and reserves

Output: Regulation and Enforcement for Conservation

Regulation and Enforcement for Conservation manages and protects the Parks and Reserves estate of the Territory by administering the By-Laws and Regulations of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* and conducting conservation programs.

Key Achievements in 2005-06

- Applied the amended By-Laws and Regulations, resulting in an increased number of infringement notices.
- Conducted ranger conservation training programs to enhance their knowledge of the link between fire control and its effect on fauna and flora.
- Conducted feral animal removal programs in the Mary River National Park and Victoria River District.
- Conducted weed control programs in northern region Parks, with particular emphasis on removing coffee bush, olive hymenachne and gamba grass.
- Conducted public awareness campaigns on the reason for and enforcement of By-laws and Regulations.
- Monitored the hunting of Magpie Geese.
- Sponsored the annual Devils' Claw Festival (weed removal program) in the Gregory National Park.
- Conducted fauna surveys in Katherine region Parks to increase biodiversity knowledge within the region.
- Conducted controlled burns in accordance with the Fire Management Action Plan in all major southern region Parks and Reserves.
- Conducted weed control programs in southern region Parks with particular emphasis on buffel grass.

Challenges in 2005-06

- Taking enforcement action under the amended By-Laws and Regulations. Rangers' ability to action was affected by limited training opportunities to increase competency in this area.

Future Priorities

- Continue to manage visitors and their activities within the Park and Reserve estate through the enhanced By-Laws and Regulations. Greater management is required due to the pressure on natural and man made facilities and attractions and the expected continued increase in visitor numbers.

Performance Measures Regulation and Enforcement for Conservation	05-06 Estimate	05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate
Quantity			
Penalties issued	90	99 ¹	120
Conservation programs being implemented	103	103	103
Quality			
Proportion of penalties pursued to conclusion	80%	83%	80%
Timelines			
Average days taken from issue to finalisation of a penalty ²	45	48	45

Notes

1. The penalties included vehicle parking (88 per cent), introduction of animals (7 per cent), driving off road (4 per cent) and littering (1 per cent).
2. Once an infringement notice has been issued it is passed to the Fines Recovery Unit to collect the fine. The Agency has no further involvement and cannot influence the timeliness of fine collection.



performance reporting

output group: biological parks

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.

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 Windows on the Wetlands.

Key Achievements in 2005-06

- Installed new nature theatre seating for greater visitor comfort and safety at the Alice Springs Desert Park.
- Provided free entry to Northern Territory school children at the Alice Springs Desert Park.
- Installed a new school overnight campground at the Territory Wildlife Park.
- Continued operation of Windows on the Wetland as an entry free facility.
- Awarded an NT Tourism Brologa Award for Major Tourist Attraction for Alice Springs Desert Park.
- Commenced several breeding programs of threatened species at the Territory Wildlife Park and the Alice Springs Desert Park.

Challenges in 2005-06

- Tropical Cyclone Monica affected the Territory Wildlife Park's visitor facilities due to extensive flooding.

Future Priorities

- The changes in visitor expectations, from passive recreation activities and experiences towards interactivity and engagement, requires adaptation in business activities.

Performance Measures Visitor and Education Facilities	05-06 Estimate	05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate
Quantity			
Visitors	160 000	156 323	162 000
Subsidy per visitor	\$48.85	\$50.01	\$48.35
Threatened species breeding programs	9	9	9
Quality			
Success of threatened species programs	80%	80%	80%

Output: Botanic Gardens

Botanic Gardens provide opportunities to experience, enjoy and learn about the Territory's natural living flora.

Key Achievements in 2005-06

- Supported the Olive Pink Botanic Gardens in Alice Springs with horticultural and curatorial advice.
- Hosted the Tropical Gardens Spectacular and elements of the Darwin Festival at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.
- Developed a visitor experience plan for the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.
- Developed plans for a rainforest walkway and completed a new cycad garden for the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.
- Consulted with local residents and representatives of the Larrakia Nation with a view to these groups becoming involved with the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.

Challenges in 2005-06

- Integrating the new visitor experience plan into the existing master plan for the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.

Future Priorities

- Rebuild the rainforest walkway and the children's garden to attract more visitors and to enhance visitor experience and safety.

Performance Measures Botanic Gardens	05-06 Estimate	05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate
Quantity			
Functions and special events	2	2	3
New significant visitor experiences created	0	0	2
Quality			
User satisfaction with venue	90%	90%	90%



performance reporting

output group: natural resources

Output Group: Natural Resources

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 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.

Output: Natural Resource Assessment

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

Key Achievements in 2005-06

The Agency performed a wide range of strategic assessment projects for biodiversity, surface and groundwater resources, and regional vegetation and land capability throughout the Northern Territory. These included major water resource assessments, compliance audits under the *Water Act*, reports on regional vegetation and land capability, and the hydraulic characteristics of Territory harbours.

Coastal and Estuaries

- Modelled impacts of proposed Darwin Harbour dredging work and the construction of a sea wall on sediments for the Waterfront Precinct.
- Analysed Victoria River bed sediment loads to ascertain the potential impact of the removal of bed material to use as fill on the planned upgrade of the Victoria Highway.
- Provided water velocity survey data of Darwin Harbour to the Australian Maritime College to assist with the modelling of Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) tankers berthing and operating safely at Darwin's LNG Plant.
- Commenced cooperative work with Charles Darwin University and the Australian Institute of Marine Science on developing a hydrodynamic sediment transport and water quality model for Melville Bay.

- Worked with Professor Eric Valentine of Charles Darwin University on water quality modelling of sewage treatment outfalls in Darwin Harbour.

Land and Vegetation

- Continued collation of information on soil types and behaviour on the lands of the Northern Territory for the Australian Soil Resource Information System (ASRIS).
- Conducted rangeland condition assessment on 36 per cent (annual target is 33 per cent) of all Tier 1 pastoral monitoring sites.
- Revised historical data on soils and vegetation in Coomalie, Marrakai and Douglas regions for use in strategic land use planning and for assessing development proposals.
- Continued development of the Northern Territory Soil and Land Information database (SALINFO) and the electronic capture of data sites using previously reported information in hard copy format.
- Commenced a pilot of a Territory wide assessment on the condition of native vegetation and development utilising the Vegetation Assets States and Transitions (VAST) method. This will result in comparable evaluation on the condition of vegetation across Australia.

Water Resources

- Worked closely with the National Water Commission on:
 - groundwater and surface water interaction mapping for the Gulf region; and
 - an inventory of groundwater dependent ecosystems and the preparation of the National Baseline Water Resources Assessment 2004–2005.

- Contributed data to the Alice Springs Water Resources Strategy by assessing the volume of groundwater stored in the Mereenie Aquifer System.
- Completed regional modelling of the Cambrian Limestone aquifer system of the Wiso, Georgina and Daly Basins, and preliminary groundwater modelling of the adjacent Ooloo Dolostone. This will allow for assessment of the impacts on potential extraction to these areas.
- Oversaw the investigation for the Alice Springs Soil Aquifer Treatment Scheme into Demonstration Production Bores.

Biodiversity Management

- Completed an assessment of the effects of feral animals on land condition in the Victoria River District.
- Gained Australian Government approval for the 2005-2010 Saltwater Crocodile Management Plan.
- Implemented the Darwin Harbour and Katherine River Crocodile Management Plan where nomadic saltwater crocodiles are removed to reduce the risk to people, pets and livestock.
- Conducted extensive magpie goose surveys to determine bag limits and duration of hunting season.
- Attended to 202 Wildlife Rescue call-outs for sick or injured native animals.
- Completed the Island Ark program, which included the successful establishment of the threatened northern quoll species on two islands off Arnhem Land, secure from cane toads.
- Completed a major externally funded assessment of the relationship between land condition monitoring and biodiversity monitoring.



performance reporting

output group: natural resources

- Completed the third phase (year 10) of monitoring of wildlife across Litchfield National Park.
 - Provided \$30 rebates for 440 cane toad traps purchased by Territorians, actively reducing the number of cane toads and the impact they have on our native wildlife. The rebate system, which will continue in 2006-07, reimbursed Territorians \$13 200 towards their purchase of cane toad traps.
 - Commenced a major survey of the biodiversity of Groote Eylandt and adjacent smaller islands, in collaboration with the Anindilyakwa Land Council.
 - Conducted intensive studies on a series of threatened plant and animal species and implemented recovery plans for a number of species across the Territory.
 - Completed a major review and analysis of 10 years of monitoring data for Gouldian finch at the Yinberrie Hills, demonstrating that the population there has been stable.
 - Completed a suite of conservation planning studies in the Darwin region including:
 - woody vegetation recovery at extractive mine sites;
 - mapping and recommendations for bushfire management; and
 - a vegetation retention strategy.
 - Completed a major series of studies on the distribution, status and community ecology of insectivorous bats in the Top End.
 - Completed a major program to help align Territory lists of threatened species with those maintained by the Australian Government.
 - Developed assessment and monitoring programs that examined the responses of biodiversity to Tropical Cyclone Monica and other recent cyclones, in collaboration with CSIRO and Charles Darwin University.
 - Completed major initiatives associated with the Desert Fire project including a landscape scale assessment of the woody obligate seeder flora of central Australia.
 - Assisted the North Australian Marine Biodiversity Survey of seagrass communities of northern Australia that uncovered 15 previously undescribed species, while 30 species were recorded in the Territory for the first time.
 - Conducted a biological survey and conservation assessment of the *Booya* shipwreck in Darwin Harbour.
- #### Challenges in 2005-06
- Developing and retaining professional personnel with skills in the areas of ecology, pedology and hydrology.
 - Integrating soil and vegetation data with other key information themes such as water and land use, to provide a better understanding of "whole of landscape" processes for strategic planning of land use in the Northern Territory.
 - Steady increments in the range and population densities of major vertebrate pests and inadequate resources to monitor and control.
 - Ongoing declines for some threatened species, due in part to insufficient knowledge of threatening factors, or insufficient resources to combat them.
 - Balancing substantial commitments to a large series of externally funded projects.
 - Meeting the increasing obligations for monitoring of biodiversity and environments.
 - Meeting the increasing demands for information about biodiversity values, particularly in relationship to development assessments.

Future Priorities

- Contribute to inputs sought by the National Water Commission under the National Water Initiative. This will require improved assessment, understanding, management and allocation of the Territory’s surface and groundwater resources.
- Conduct the major operational stages of National Water Initiative funded projects on the Gulf Water Study and the Darwin/Daly Study.
- Consult with industry and community groups on the importance of land use data and mapping. This information, used in conjunction with soil and vegetation information, will enable greater understanding of the changes in the condition of land resources.
- Participate in a wide range of major Natural Resource Management Board activities, funded by the National Heritage Trust. These initiatives include vegetation mapping, water resource and groundwater dependent ecosystem investigations, soil erosion control and river behaviour.
- Develop management programs for major vertebrate pests.
- Conduct a full scale waterfowl survey of the Top End including Arnhem Land.
- Develop a marine protected areas strategy for the Northern Territory.
- Develop a marine debris monitoring program.
- Publish dossiers for all Territory threatened plants and animals.

Performance Measures Natural Resource Assessment	05-06 Estimate	05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate
Quantity Strategic assessment projects	22	22	22
Quality Stakeholder satisfaction	90%	N/A ¹	90%
Timeliness Assessment project milestones met	85%	85%	87.5%

Notes

1. Survey of stakeholder satisfaction yet to be undertaken.



performance reporting

output group: natural resources

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 bushfires, weeds, water resources, native vegetation and soil conservation.

Key Achievements in 2005-06

- Contained the spread of Cabomba weed within the Darwin River and protected the Darwin River Dam from infestation.
- Developed a weed risk management assessment model with extensive industry and community involvement.
- Established the Natural Resource Management Board to implement the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan for the Territory.
- Accreditation and implementation of the Integrated Natural Resource Management Regional Investment Strategy with \$1.46 million delivered to 52 of the 93 approved projects.
- Consulted with the community on a draft Alice Springs Water Resource Strategy, by conducting workshops and forums. The Strategy's aim is to discuss and formulate the best long term use of Alice Springs' water resources, balancing social and environmental protection while allowing for economic growth.
- Conducted 184 prescribed fuel reduction fires and responded to 214 wildfires.
- Obtained National Disaster Mitigation Program funding of \$262 500 for improved fire mitigation projects in Arnhem, Victoria River, Gulf, Katherine, Alice Springs East and West districts.
- Expanded the automated Northern Australian Fire Information (NAFI) site to include the central regions of the Territory.
- Secured a partnership with the South Australian Country Fire Service to deliver nationally accredited bushfire fighting training.
- Completed the Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) VegMachine Project – with the delivery of satellite data on vegetation cover to rangeland managers via a computer program. This product is a decision support tool which helps managers to better plan for sustainable production of cattle.
- Implemented extensive remediation works to prevent salt water intrusion in the Mary River as part of an on-going program funded through capital works.
- Continued support for community natural resource management activities of Landcare groups across the Territory and successfully hosted the Territory Landcare awards and presentation evening in Katherine.

- Obtained Defeating the Weeds Menace Program funding of
 - \$224 000 for Mimosa;
 - \$277 000 for Athel Pine; and
 - \$28 000 for a National Coordinator for both programs.
- Implemented the National Strategic Plan for Mimosa Management by coordinating physical control efforts on pastoral and Indigenous lands and continued investigation and implementation of bio-control programs.
- Led the implementation of the National Strategic Plan for Athel Pine Management.
- Implemented new regulations which provide for more effective administration of Volunteer Bushfire Brigades.

Challenges in 2005-06

- Discovering Cabomba seeding in the Darwin River (first record of this in Australia) which led to a re-evaluation of the eradication strategy.
- Establishing the Natural Resource Management Board (NRMB) for the roll-out of the Regional Implementation Strategy to deliver National Heritage Trust/National Action Plan for salinity and water quality project funds to community groups.
- Developing a Weed Risk Assessment process which required careful consideration of, and adaptation of, technical issues to the Territory context to assist with the review of the declared plant list.
- An increase in fuel loads and fire intensity caused by an above average growing season due to the prolonged wet season.
- Responding to the threat of increased fire intensity created by introduced grasses.
- Managing Occupational Health and Safety issues in fire fighting scenarios. The fire environment is becoming increasingly complex and hazardous as a result of increased development in rural areas and the introduction of more flammable plants.
- Providing fire management services in rural growth areas, such as the Vernon region, where increased subdivision and development is creating a more complex fire management environment, with more property at risk.
- Integrating the Tier 1 and Tier 2 rangeland monitoring programs that has led to the development of new methodologies for on-ground monitoring, and development of a project to assess the implementation of new satellite technologies.
- A protracted wet season restricted works on the Mary River Saltwater Intrusion Program as access for inspection and post wet season repairs was not possible.



performance reporting

output group: natural resources

Future Priorities

- Review the *Pastoral Land Act*.
- Implement the West Arnhem Fire Management Agreement (WAFMA) with project partners to abate greenhouse gas emissions from savanna burning in West Arnhem Land.
- Deliver nationally accredited fire fighting training to Bushfires NT staff and volunteers.
- Contain and eradicate the aquatic weed Cabomba in the lower Darwin River.
- Create the Rapid Creek Environmental Hub.
- Ensure that Northern Territory Priorities are included in the development of the National Heritage Trust (NHT 3) program.
- Finalise the Alice Springs Water Resource Strategy in preparation for formal declaration and implementation of a Water Allocation Plan.
- Finalise and implement the Weed Risk Assessment process. This will allow plant species to be declared a weed.
- Improve coordinated fire management in the Gulf Region and across the Queensland border to mitigate the impact of large wildfires.
- Appoint Weeds of National Significance coordinators for Athel Pine and Mimosa.
- Review the Northern Territory Weed Management Strategy.
- Develop regional weed management strategies and weed management plans for all priority species.
- Develop and implement a monitoring, evaluation and reporting program for the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan.
- Continue to implement the salt water intrusion remediation works on the Mary River as part of the Northern Territory Government's commitment to the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality.
- Develop improved soil conservation guidelines and policies for industry and community use.
- Establish the Daly River Management Advisory Committee to advise the Minister on the development of an adaptive management approach for the Daly Region.

Performance Measures Natural Resource Management Activities	05-06 Estimate	05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate
Quantity			
Strategic programs	22	22	22
Territory expenditure as a proportion of total dollars committed	35%	72% ¹	57%
Area of wildfires versus controlled burns	2.6:1	0.8:1 ²	2.6:1
Quality			
Programs meeting agreed targets	80%	73%	80%
Timeliness			
Program project milestones met	80%	73%	80%

Notes

1. Natural Heritage Trust Joint Steering Committee released less funding than was budgeted.
2. The number of wildfires experienced in 2005-06 was significantly lower than predicted due to the extensive impact of wildfires in 2004.



performance reporting

output group: natural resources

Output: Natural Resource Regulation and Enforcement

The Department implements and enforces legislation and regulations to ensure the allocation and sustainable use of the Northern Territory's natural resources and wildlife.

Key Achievements in 2005-06

- Increased engagement with developers on vegetation retention and soil conservation practices to improve compliance with guidelines and minimise environmental impacts.
 - Provided coordinated comment on 210 development applications, notices of intent, public environment reports, environmental impact assessments and various construction and operation environment management plans.
 - Progressed the first review of the *Pastoral Land Act 1992* through the public consultation stage and completed a Recommendations Paper for the Minister's consideration.
 - Updated Land Clearing Guidelines 2006.
 - Received and processed 21 clearing of native vegetation applications and issued 20 clearing of native vegetation development permits covering approximately 6936 hectares.
 - Completed one successful prosecution for illegal land clearing.
 - Continued to improve public access to land clearing data, statistics and mapping through the Agency's website.
 - Issued 10 groundwater and 11 surface water drilling licences and 200 bore construction permits.
 - Issued 45 feral control notices for donkeys and horses in accordance with the Victoria River District pest declaration area.
- Undertook 52 investigations into illegal wildlife activities that resulted in;
 - three successful prosecutions;
 - numerous formal warning letters issued; and
 - two prosecutions which are still pending an outcome.
 - Initiated three successful prosecutions under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* for:
 - the killing of wildlife in a National Park without a permit;
 - removing reptiles from the wild and possessing reptiles without a permit; and
 - repeatedly taking dogs into a National Park without a permit.All cases resulted in fines and convictions through the judicial process.
 - Reviewed and gained approval of management programs for saltwater crocodiles and dingoes/wild dogs.

Challenges in 2005-06

- Engaging with and adopting national environmental law enforcement best practices to ensure that regulatory compliance in the Territory aligns with national standards.
- The number of requests and their complexity for advice on development and planning issues from the Development Consent Authority and the Environment Protection Agency increased dramatically. The volume and complexity of the requests are compounded by the regulatory time limits in responding to such matters.

- Developing water allocation plans for the Darwin Rural, Daly and Katherine regions. These required the provisions of quality information on water supplies and use, and involved extensive consultation with industry, local government and community stakeholders.
- Implementing National Water Initiative obligations in tight timeframes for an extensive program of work. These obligations required tailoring solutions to national issues in a unique physical and social local environment of the Territory.
- Formation of a Wildlife Management unit by combining the wildlife operational area from Parks Division with the science based wildlife management staff in the Biodiversity Conservation Division.

Future Priorities

- Implement legal processes and provide training to enable staff to more effectively regulate and enforce the Acts, including the development and delivery of the Certificate IV in Government (Investigation).
- Commence a review of the *Water Act*.
- Continue water allocation planning processes to ensure sustainable use of water resources in the Territory.
- Review the Ti Tree Water Allocation Plan to ensure sustainable use of water resources in the region.
- Implement a metering project in the Daly and Darwin Rural area to provide quantified data on domestic water use to assist with the development of a water allocation plan for the regions.
- Train staff in environmental law enforcement.

Performance Measures Natural Resource Regulation and Enforcement	05-06 Estimate	05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate
Quantity			
Water licences and land clearing permits issued	30	44 ¹	30
Wildlife permits issued	2 500	4 358 ²	2 500
Quality			
Non-permitted activities detected	75	61 ³	75
Timeliness			
Permits issued within regulatory timeframes	90%	70% ⁴	90%

Notes

1. The number of licences and permits issued exceeded expectation due to increased development activity in the Territory.
2. Applications for wildlife permits are unpredictable. Promotion of sustainable use of wildlife and publicity about enforcement may have contributed to an increased number of applications.
3. Education of environmental law enforcement may have resulted in the public becoming aware of activities requiring permits. As a result less illegal activities were detected or occurred.
4. Timeliness was affected by deferrals of approval for applications, due to the Department seeking more detailed information from applicants to complete the necessary assessment requirements of the permit.



performance reporting

output group: natural resources

Output: Flood Forecasting

The Department provides a flood forecasting service to provide up to date advice to Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services in order 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. For the Katherine River at Katherine, accurate forecasts of likely height can be given up to 24 hours in advance, with estimated updates given regularly on the basis of subsequent rainfall and river heights reached.

Key Achievements in 2005-06

- In a record year for flood forecasting with some five separate major floods, 203 flood advices were issued as follows:
 - Katherine River (15)
 - Upper Roper River (Beswick) (53)
 - Daly River (88)
 - Victoria River (47)
- All forecasts were accurate in terms of the estimates provided and subsequent revision due to rainfall and upstream river rises.
- Warnings were also issued on a number of occasions advising of flows across Todd River crossings in Alice Springs.

Challenges in 2005-06

- The 2005-06 wet season was extremely busy for flood forecasting, with Katherine subjected to the second highest recorded flood in 120 years.
- The number of flood warnings and advice issued put substantial pressure on both the operational system and the forecasters to deliver timely and accurate forecasts.
- The volume of forecasts and the serious nature of flooding in Katherine saw the Police, Fire and Emergency Services and other Government Agencies seek additional and explanatory information of forecasts and possible scenarios in the event particular rainfall conditions occurred.

Future Priorities

- Ensure that flood forecasting meets Police, Fire and Emergency Service requirements.
- Ensure the process of flood forecasting is clearly understood by working with the Flood Working Group (a sub-committee of the Northern Territory Counter Disaster Committee).
- Review the capacity to provide a higher level of forecasting in accordance with available resources, including the ability of rainfall and stream height gauges to provide the necessary data for accurate forecasting.
- Determine the best way to provide up to date river height information to the public, with sufficient quality assurance, without detracting from the Police, Fire and Emergency Services' role to issue public flood warnings.

Performance Measures Flood Forecasting	05-06 Estimate	05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate
Quantity Installations (of gauging stations)	23	23	25
Quality Reliability of equipment	70%	85% ¹	85%
Timeliness Services delivered within agreed timeframes	95%	95%	95%

Notes

1. This increase was due to the concentrated effort made in the late 2005 dry season to ensure all equipment was well maintained, along with operational and on ground support of equipment during severe weather events.

Output: Hydrographic and Drilling Services

The Department measures the surface and groundwater resources of the Northern Territory and undertakes drilling and bore testing to increase knowledge of the Territory's groundwater and facilitate sustainable utilisation.

These measurements are undertaken using the Department's two major drilling rigs and associated equipment, which are able to conduct operations in remote areas. The hydrographic function measures stream heights, bore levels and rainfall at a range of automated and telemetered sites across the Territory.

In some cases, the equipment used to measure water height in streams and rivers and provide flow volumes over a period is also utilised to assist in flood forecasting. However, not all measured sites are suitable for flood forecasting purposes.

Key Achievements in 2005-06

- Maintained the capacity to undertake complex and remote drilling and hydrographic services throughout the Territory, and operation of 134 automated river level and rainfall recording stations.
- Conducted extensive hydrographic river gauging at 150 stream gaugings across the major Top End river catchment flood flows post Tropical Cyclone Monica. This resulted in several record high flow gaugings including the Daly, Adelaide and Victoria Rivers.
- Completed a hydrographic review of all 123 northern region gauging stations. This involved identifying clients for each site, their current and future data requirements and aligning this with core Government objectives and available resources. This resulted in the gauging station network being rationalised and management plans developed.
- Undertook a restructure of the Hydrographic and Drilling unit to meet key requirements of the hydrographic review. This review identified two areas, instrumentation support and data management, as needing support. This resulted in two new employment positions created in these areas.



performance reporting

output group: natural resources

- Ensured hydrographic flood forecast equipment remained operational to provide accurate flood forecasts predictions for both Katherine and Daly River post Tropical Cyclone Monica.
- Upgraded five telemetered flood forecasting sites from satellite communications to Telstra's Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) communication system, improving reliability and considerably reducing operational costs prior to the wet season.
- Conducted investigative drilling and testing for the Humpty Doo sewage ponds project and drilled 13 investigation monitoring bores in the Alice Springs town area.
- Drilled and tested a deep (360 metre), high yield (100 litre/sec), large diameter irrigation bore for Manbullo Mangoes P/L in the Katherine area.
- Completed investigation and trial production drilling for the Soil Aquifer Treatment (SAT) project in the Alice Springs area.
- Upgraded river height recorders at Majela Creek downstream of Ranger mine under contract for the Environmental Research Institute of the Supervising Scientist. This now directly reports data to the Internet for the client.
- The abnormal wet season in the Top End and rainfall associated with Tropical Cyclone Monica put considerable pressure on the hydrographic network. The network performed above expectations due to the attention paid to site maintenance, and the positioning of on-ground staff prior to the onset of the forecast events.

Future Priorities

- As part of National Water Commission funded projects for the Gulf, Darwin and Daly Region, an investigation drilling program will be commenced.
- Provide drilling assistance to ensure appropriate water supply infrastructure is available on communities and to service infrastructure construction needs.
- Undertake gaugings of the important low flow regime in the dry season, due to the increased requirement of environmental flow data during this period.
- Ensure that the hydrographic network is fully operational prior to the 2006-07 wet season.

Challenges in 2005-06

- Retention of staff is increasingly difficult in the face of high financial rewards offered by the private sector, particularly the minerals sector.
- Upgrading technical skills of hydrographic staff in a period of transition to electronic based data recording and transmission system was addressed with ongoing training and selection of robust and user friendly equipment.

Performance Measures Hydrographic and Drilling Services	05-06 Estimate	05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate
Quantity			
Gauging stations	193	195	200
Operational rig days	158	187 ¹	195
Quality			
Time series data collected at agreed standards	55%	57%	60%
Proportion of unscheduled maintenance of drilling rigs	5%	4%	5%
Timeliness			
Services delivered within agreed timeframes	90%	90%	90%
Cost			
Cost per rig day	\$15 000	\$12 120 ²	\$13 667

Notes

1. The increase of operational rig days can be attributed to the increased number of large scale drilling projects undertaken.
2. The cost per rig day was less than estimated due to an increase in the number of large scale drilling projects that were forecast. This increase resulted in establishment costs per day being reduced.



performance reporting

output group: environment protection

Output Group: Environment Protection

A key component in the conservation of the Territory's natural assets is protection of the environment and the need of government, industry and the community for advice on protecting the natural environment and regulation in relation to government's established frameworks to manage protection of the environment. The objective of this Output Group is to advise government on environmental issues arising from proposed land uses to protect the Northern Territory's environment from detrimental affects.

Output: Environment Protection Agency

The Environment Protection Agency (EPA) assesses and regulates potential environmental impacts of development, coordinates greenhouse and climate change policy and responses, and promotes the maintenance of aquatic ecosystem health.

Key Achievements in 2005-06

- Provided support and secretariat services for the establishment of the interim EPA Board and helped Board members to consult with the Territory community about the form and function of a final EPA for the Northern Territory.
- Implemented the Litter Abatement and Resource Recovery Strategy including the second round of Litter Grants in the Northern Territory.
- Promoted and implemented the second round of the \$460 000 Environment Grants Program.
- Provided financial support for the implementation of the Cool Communities program in Darwin and Alice Springs.
- Released the Northern Territory Strategy for Greenhouse Action 2006.
- Worked with other states and territories to investigate the design and impacts of a greenhouse gas emissions trading scheme through the National Emissions Trading Taskforce.
- Coordinated Northern Territory involvement in developing and implementing the Council of Australian Government's Plan of Collaborative Action on Climate Change.

- Supported implementation of the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management 2003.
- Developed the draft Stormwater Strategy for the Darwin Harbour Catchment.
- Improved the administration of environment protection licences.
- Issued an Environment Protection Licence for the ConocoPhillips LNG plant at Wickham Point.
- Developed a best practice waste discharge licence template for licensing discharges under Part 7 of the *Water Act*.
- Reviewed the operation of the *Waste Management Pollution Control Act* in accordance with section 116 of the *Act* and started implementing the recommendations.
- Reported on the ecological health and water quality of the rivers, lagoons and harbour waters of the Darwin region.
- Made recommendations for dry season water quality targets for the streams and rivers of the Darwin region.
- Completed environmental assessments of:
 - Blacktip Gas Proposal
 - McArthur River Mine Expansion Environmental Impact Statement
 - Browns Oxide Mine Proposal
 - Tiwi Sand Mining Proposal.
- Commenced assessment of:
 - Victoria Highway upgrade
 - Fin Fish Farm at Port Patterson
 - Fin Fish Farm at Channel Island
 - Fin Fish Farm at Snake Bay
 - Condensate Processing Facility at East Arm Wharf
 - PNG Gas Pipeline
 - Waste incinerator at East Arm Wharf
 - Burnside Operations gold mining proposal.
- Undertook environmental compliance of:
 - Darwin City Waterfront Development
 - Biodiesel Plant at East Arm Wharf
 - Vopak Fuel Terminal at East Arm Wharf
 - Aussie Prawns Aquaculture Facility
 - East Arm Bulk Storage Facility
 - Kulaluk Mud Crab Aquaculture Proposal
 - Lyons Residential Development
 - LNG Plant at Wickham Point

Challenges in 2005-06

- Meeting the demands of a booming economy and community and industry expectations by continually rethinking how to go about the EPA's core functions of environmental assessment and regulation.



performance reporting

output group: environment protection

Future Priorities

- Support the EPA Board in providing recommendations to the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage about the form and function of an EPA, and in developing the legislative base to underpin the EPA.
- Start developing a water quality protection plan for Darwin Harbour.
- Draft a strategic waste management policy for the Northern Territory.
- Finalise and implement the Stormwater Management Strategy for the Darwin Harbour Catchment, including finalising industry codes of practice for stormwater management and starting work on guidelines for water sensitive urban development.
- Extend monitoring of aquatic health ecosystems to the Daly River catchment area.
- Complete negotiations with Darwin LNG and the Northern Land Council for the implementation of the West Arnhem Fire Management Agreement.
- Administer an expanded Cool Communities program with a broader focus on water and sustainable living.
- Develop an Air Quality Framework for the Northern Territory.
- Coordinate the implementation of the NT Strategy for Greenhouse Action 2006.
- Work with the Australian, State and Territory Governments to develop a legislative framework for mandatory public reporting of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Undertake strategic assessment of the impacts of climate change on the Northern Territory.
- Commence review and renegotiation of the Environment Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Bilateral Agreement between the Northern Territory and Australian Governments.
- Implement the proposed variation to the National Environment Protection Measure governing the operation of the National Pollutant Inventory.

Performance Measures Environment Protection Agency	05-06 Estimate	05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate
Quantity			
Environmental assessment reports to Minister	11	4 ¹	12
Licences and approvals administered	55	54 ²	60
Capacity to provide assistance to community, industry and local government to promote environmental sustainability	\$0.78M	\$0.76M	\$0.57M
Capacity to provide advice about environmental protection and climate change matters	\$2.05M	\$2.18M ³	\$2.4M
Quality			
Stakeholder satisfaction with advice	80%	78%	80%
Timeliness			
Meet statutory timeframes established under relevant legislation	100%	83%	100%

Notes

1. The number of environmental assessment reports depends on the number of public environmental reports and environmental impact statements that are lodged with Government. The timing depends on the developer and is therefore difficult to predict.
2. The total figure of 54 is made up of 38 environment protection licences and 16 waste discharge licences.
3. The variation from the estimate is due to a broadening of responsibilities to include aquatic health.



performance reporting

output group: heritage and conservation

Output Group: Heritage and Conservation

Heritage and 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: Heritage and Conservation Services

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

Key Achievements in 2005-06

- Continued to implement the Northern Territory Government's 10 year \$10 million Repairs and Maintenance Initiative for Heritage Assets.
- Successfully implemented the \$200 000 annual Northern Territory Government Heritage Grants Program.
- Added 12 places to the Northern Territory Heritage Register.
- Completed conservation plans for three heritage places.
- Opened new visitor facilities at the heritage listed Strauss Airstrip near the Stuart Highway.
- Launched a commemorative book and CD titled *A Wartime Journey* (Stuart Highway Heritage Guide).

Challenges in 2005-06

- Ensuring timely completion of projects under the Repairs and Maintenance Program, which was hampered by the high levels of demand in the building industry.

Future Priorities

- Finalise review of the *Heritage Conservation Act*.
- Launch a new web-based Heritage Register.

Performance Measures Heritage and Conservation Services	05-06 Estimate	05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate
Quantity			
Assessment reports to Heritage Advisory Council	9	19	12
Capacity to provide assistance to private owners of heritage places	\$0.2M	\$0.16M ¹	\$0.2M
Capacity to maintain Government owned heritage facilities	\$1.0M	\$0.74M ²	\$1.0M
Quality			
Stakeholder satisfaction with advice	80%	85%	80%
Timeliness			
Meet statutory timeframes established by the <i>Heritage Conservation Act</i>	100%	100%	100%

Notes

1. Three successful applicants to the NT Heritage Grants Program did not take up the offer of funding assistance before 30 June 2006, so expenditure was \$0.16 million instead of \$0.2 million.
2. Projects to the value of \$1 million were commenced, however some were not completed in the anticipated timeframe because of a lack of available contractors.



performance reporting

output group: scientific and cultural collections

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.

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.

Key Achievements in 2005-06

- Completed a Collection Storage Review and a Collection Audit to ensure the Territory's natural and cultural assets are maintained to an international standard.
- Discovered a new genus and species of wombat and added further giant bird, marsupial and crocodile specimens to the collection.
- Enhanced community involvement by exceeding visitation expectations, increasing education volunteer numbers and presenting numerous informative programs. Visitation exceeded estimates by almost 70 000 visitors.
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Strehlow Research Centre and the Central Australian Stolen Generations and Aboriginal Families Corporation.

Challenges in 2005-06

- Increasing the profile of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards. The number of artists entering the 2005 awards and attending the presentation increased.

Future Priorities

- Increase the profile of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory and other significant sites to increase their use, enhance revenue and place the Museum as a significant and unique cultural institution.
- Use multi-media and other technology to showcase the Museum and Art Gallery's collections and enable online bookings.

- Increase commercial sponsorship and joint project funding to attain higher standards of cultural and artistic expression and to enhance awareness of significant historic events.
- Develop displays to enhance public awareness of the history of Central Australia in the Strehlow Research Centre.

Performance Measures Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory	05-06 Estimate	05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate
Quantity			
Visitors ¹	230 000	298 876	230 000
Major exhibitions	5	9 ²	5
Grants and sponsorships received and managed	\$0.3M	\$0.448M	\$0.3M
Grants	5	16 ³	5
Quality			
Visitor satisfaction ⁴	95%	97%	95%
Acquisitions that meet collection policy	100%	100%	100%
Collection accessible to the public	10%	10%	10%
Timeliness			
Public programs delivered within published delivery dates	100%	100%	100%

Notes

1. Visitors to venues at Bullocky Point, Lyons Cottage, Fannie Bay Gaol, Australian Pearling Exhibition, Strehlow Research Centre and Museum of Central Australia.
2. Major exhibitions increased due to the re-schedule of the public program and ability to use additional gallery space.
3. Amount of grants and scholarships received and managed increased due to proactive efforts by MAGNT staff to secure additional revenue for enhanced exhibition quality and promotional activities.
4. Survey conducted by Synovate.



performance reporting

output group: scientific and cultural collections

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.

Key Achievements in 2005-06

- Provided plant identification and flora survey services in sections of Nitmiluk and Kakadu National Parks, and Bullo River, resulting in identifying baseline assessments of flora.
- Helped identify and eradicate the Cabomba weed infestation at Darwin River.
- Started taxonomic revisions that will result in a better understanding of flora in a defined area.

Challenges in 2005-06

- Maintaining the curation of the collection and striking a balance between research and practical application.

Future Priorities

- Provide additional flora information to the wider community via the Internet.
- Publish Volume 1 Flora of the Darwin Region.

Performance Measures Herbarium	05-06 Estimate	05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate
Quantity Specimens in collections	222 000	222 000	222 000
Quality Standard of curation of botanical collections ¹	90%	97%	90%
Timeliness Project milestones met	90%	90%	90%

Notes

1. The standard of curation is determined by assessing the quality of a random selection of specimens.



performance reporting

output group: arts and screen industry support

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.

Output: Arts and Screen Sector

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

Key Achievements in 2005-06

- Implemented a new funding framework for key arts organisations, including annual and triennial funding. The new framework supports operational capacities including staffing and administration costs and core program activity. It provides for stability in funding capacity and facilitates long term planning.
- Launched the Northern Territory Government's inaugural Public Art Policy and introduced a Public Art Grants Program.
- Introduced the festivals development initiative to support festival activity across all regions including:
 - major festivals including Darwin Festival, Alice Desert Festival and Garma Festival;
 - regional festivals including Katherine Flying Fox, Tennant Creek Desert Harmony, Jabiru Mahbilil and Gove Peninsula Festival;
 - remote festivals including Batchelor Lingalonga, Wugularr Walking with Spirits, Gunbalanya Open Day, Millingimbi Gatjirk Cultural Festival, Barunga Festival of Culture and Sport and Borroloola Arts and Cultural Festival; and
 - niche festivals such as the Northern Territory Writers' Centre 'Wordstorm', Darwin Fringe Festival, Fist Full of Films and the Beanie Festival.

- Won the bid to host the national Regional Arts Australia Conference in Alice Springs in 2008.
- Supported the Australian Ballet's production of *Giselle* in the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens through a funding grant.
- Hosted a Regional Arts Fund remote area hub meeting in Darwin to coordinate and build arts capacity and service delivery in remote Territory regions.
- Conducted grant writing workshops in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs to help artists and the community access the Arts Grants Program and write more successful applications for grant funding.
- Reviewed the Indigenous Arts Strategy, *Building Strong Arts Business*, to inform the plan for years three to six and build on successful outcomes.
- Managed the 2005 Portrait of a Senior Territorian Exhibition in Parliament House. The exhibition displays portraits from artists drawn from across the Northern Territory to honour senior Territorians.
- Established the Territory Government Inter Agency Film Task Force to advise on and support productions including the Miramax feature film *Rogue* and Baz Luhrmann's untitled Australian epic.
- Established the Screen Grants Advisory Panel. Grant funding of \$124 489 was provided to 63 applicants for industry, production, project and script development.
- Provided advice to 30 inbound production requests on locations, crew and equipment in the Territory.

- Developed and hosted Creating Vision, a Territory Indigenous Screen Industry development workshop in partnership with the Desert Knowledge Co-operative Research Centre and the Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development.

Challenges in 2005-06

- Working within existing resourcing to introduce triennial and annual funding to key arts organisations in a highly competitive environment.
- Delivering new funding programs in festivals' development and public art.
- Broadening access to Arts Grants programs and processes to Indigenous communities and artists.
- Meeting the increasing demands for assistance from the sector.

Future Priorities

- Develop a 20-year arts strategic infrastructure plan to support and develop arts facilities and venues.
- Develop strategic directions for the Northern Territory Film Office in response to industry feedback after the first three years of operation.
- Progress stage one of the Katherine Regional Cultural Precinct to include the construction of a regional standard gallery and outdoor performance space, in line with the Katherine Regional Development Plan.
- Review and improve the Arts Grants Program categories, processes and procedures including reviewing the Arts Grants Board and processes.



performance reporting

output group: arts and screen industry support

Performance Measures Arts and Screen Sector	05-06 Estimate	05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate
Quantity			
Grants managed ¹	650	813 ²	700
Grants distributed	\$5.23M	\$5.25M ³	\$5.36M
Quality			
Stakeholder satisfaction	85%	NA ⁴	85%
Timeliness			
Grants paid within agreed timeframes	100%	100%	100%

Notes

1. Includes arts, regional museums and screen grants.
2. More grants were processed and distributed in 2005-06 than in previous years, displaying the increase in artists requesting funding.
3. Budget Paper 3 contained a printing error and the figure on grants was not correct. An increase in funding of \$34 000 for Darwin Symphony Orchestra's regional Territory tour was received.
4. Stakeholder satisfaction evaluation was not completed in 2005-06 because of insufficient staff resources.

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.

Key Achievements in 2005-06

- Generated increased sales and audience attendance figures for the 2005 Desert Mob art exhibition, featuring recent works from Aboriginal art centres in Central Australia.
- Generated increased sales and audience attendance figures for the 2005 Desert Mob DanceSite event, held as part of the Alice Springs Festival.
- Participated as a venue for the 2005 Alice Springs Festival, including staging the sell-out Wearable Art Award.
- Provided in-kind support for the annual Beanie Festival and 10th anniversary Beanie Festival Exhibition, *Colours of the Country*, in the Araluen Galleries.
- Attracted strong audiences for the Araluen Art House Cinema Program throughout the year and increased annual attendance figures for the Sydney Travelling Film Festival in February 2006 by 11 per cent.
- Developed a joint working arrangement with the Alice Springs Desert Park covering management and presentation at the Alice Springs Cultural Precinct grounds and lighting of attractions at the Desert Park.
- Contributed to the Alice Springs Town Council Solar Cities application by commissioning an energy efficiency analysis, mechanical review and electrical review of operations at the Alice Springs Cultural Precinct.

- Commissioned and completed reviews of hydraulics and security systems and operations at the Alice Springs Cultural Precinct to inform maintenance planning for the Araluen Centre.

Challenges in 2005-06

- Identifying optimal opening hours, marketing ideas and budget to increase tourism visitation.
- Maintaining visitation in a climate of increasing fuel prices and decreasing disposable income.
- Developing affordable theatre and cinema programs relevant to the Alice Springs community in the face of increasing touring costs for presenters.

Future Priorities

- Work in partnership with the Alice Springs Desert Park to market the Alice Springs Cultural Precinct as a tourism destination to increase audience attendance.
- Continue to develop the grounds of the Alice Springs Cultural Precinct as a desert landscape feature, in partnership with the Alice Springs Desert Park.
- Develop a sponsorship base for the annual Desert Mob exhibition to provide increased arts industry support and create a national profile for the exhibition.
- Increase audiences attending visual and performing arts product at the Araluen Centre.

Performance Measures The Araluen Centre	05-06 Estimate	05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate
Quantity			
Visitors to visual arts exhibitions	31 500	37 587 ¹	31 500
Patrons to cinema and performances	28 000	23 826 ²	28 000
Quality			
Visitor satisfaction with Araluen Galleries experience	90%	90%	90%
Client satisfaction with Araluen theatre and cinema programs	90%	90%	90%
Timeliness			
Public programs delivered within published delivery dates	100%	100%	100%

Notes

1. An increase in attendance to visual arts exhibitions has been assisted through the growing popularity of annual events such as the Beanie Festival and the Desert Mob exhibition. In 2006, the exhibition also included *Moist: Australian Watercolours* on loan from the National Gallery of Australia, which proved to be extremely popular.
2. Decreased theatre attendance can be attributed to increasing fuel costs, which reduces patrons' disposable income and increases the costs of touring.



performance reporting

government business division

Government Business Division

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.

Business Line: Territory Wildlife Park

The Territory Wildlife Park showcases 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.

The Park's role as a key tourism attraction provides economic outcomes for the region and the Territory by attracting more visitors and encouraging them to stay longer.

The Park also contributes to conservation outcomes by breeding threatened species and delivers environmental education through interpretation and public and schools education.

Key Achievements in 2005-06

- Introduced a Territorians Pass, an unlimited access pass to the Park for an annual fee, to encourage Territorians to bring visitors to the Park and to use the Park more themselves.
- Developed new visitor experiences which focused on the changing needs of interstate and international tourists, including barramundi feeding and a new woodland exhibit.
- Installed and staffed a new guide information desk at the main station to help visitors with orientation and planning their day.
- Installed new educational interpretive graphics around the Park.
- Installed a new school overnight campground.
- Introduced a new breeding program for the northern quoll.
- Provided free entry to Northern Territory schools to reduce barriers to access by all school children.

- Introduced new visitor 'people-movers' (park transport) and more regular timetabling to allow quieter and more efficient movement of visitors around the Park and improved links with new guide presentations.
- Upgraded the emergency power system to allow seamless customer service during power outages.
- Initiated discussion with Indigenous custodians about developing new Indigenous interpretation and visitor experiences.
- Developed new visitor experiences for locals including a Darwin Symphony Orchestra concert and a Coke Zero day.
- Developed a new draft five year habitat-based concept plan for the Park.
- Employed a new product development manager to develop a new range of products at the Park.

Challenges in 2005-06

- Dealing with damaged infrastructure and reduced visitor numbers caused by major flooding at the end of the wet season.

Future Priorities

- Employ a dedicated marketing manager for the Territory Wildlife Park.
- Install car park lighting to allow more evening events and activities.
- Develop a new walk-through nocturnal exhibit and tour experience for visitors.
- Develop a substantial new estuary exhibit to attract more visitors by allowing greater contact with wildlife.
- Further develop schools educational activities.

Performance Measures Territory Wildlife Park	05-06 Estimate	05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate
Quantity			
Visitors	75 000	66 283 ¹	75 000
Key new visitor experiences	2	2	4
Quality			
Visitor satisfaction	95%	96%	95%
Timelines			
Daily guide presentations commenced on time	90%	90%	90%

Notes

1. Major flooding, following Tropical Cyclone Monica, at a potentially busy period, reduced visitor numbers in 2005-06.



performance reporting

government business division

Business Line: Alice Springs Desert Park

The Alice Springs Desert Park showcases to visitors Central Australia's unique fauna and flora in a series of natural habitats that are inviting and interesting for the visiting public.

The Park is a key tourism attraction, providing economic outcomes for the region and the Territory by attracting more visitors and encouraging them to stay longer.

It contributes to conservation outcomes by breeding threatened species, delivers environmental education through interpretation and public and schools education. It also delivers social outcomes through Indigenous employment and improving cross cultural understanding.

Key Achievements in 2005-06

- Introduced the new Territorians Pass, an unlimited access pass to the Park for an annual fee, and advertised it widely to Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.
- Introduced a new Backpackers Day experience with an emphasis on hands-on activities.
- Introduced new French audio guides for international tourists.
- Employed a new product development manager to develop a new range of products at the Desert Park.
- Provided free entry to Northern Territory schools to reduce barriers to access by all school children.
- Introduced mala to Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park following a successful breeding program.
- Installed new nature theatre seating for greater visitor comfort and safety.
- Achieved nomination by travel writers and a panel of expert judges of The Australian newspaper in the Best Family-focused Tourism category in The Australian's Travel and Tourism Awards 2005. The Park was up against operators with considerably larger budgets and attendance figures - Powerhouse Museum NSW, Seaworld Qld, Space Walker Qld, Sovereign Hill Vic and Questacon ACT. The nomination was a consequence of unannounced visits to the Desert Park by the judges, not a submission by the Desert Park.
- Won the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment's Equity and Diversity Award in the open category for the Desert Park's Indigenous employment and staff development program.
- Won a Tourism NT Brolga award for Major Tourist Attraction, for the second year in a row.
- Developed a new presentation area that will allow guides to interpret the Desert Rivers Habitat to large groups and for local school children to regularly perform the 'Parliament of Birds'.
- Further developed Indigenous interpretation and visitor experiences at the Park in collaboration with Traditional Owners.
- Continued to develop the Aboriginal Employment and Training program.
- Received accreditation for the Respecting Our Culture program from Aboriginal Tourism Australia. The Desert Park is the first tourism venture wholly in central Australia to be accredited and only the second government venture in the country.

- Worked with the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council on commissioning the artists to paint each of the Parks' 10 mobility scooters (shop riders) in traditional designs. The artists were available to tell the stories of their art to Park visitors.

Challenges in 2005-06

- Continuing the Park's strong emphasis on further integration of our planning and activities with regional and community aspirations and developments for Alice Springs, the West Macdonnell Ranges and the Red Centre Way.

Future Priorities

- Introduce a new five venue passport for visitors with other Alice Springs attractions.
- Introduce a combined product and tourism ticketing arrangement with the Alice Springs Cultural Precinct and work with the Alice Springs Cultural Precinct to develop new tourism products.
- Develop new evening markets at the Desert Park.
- Release red-tailed Phascogales into the greater site.
- Develop a schools website for interstate and Northern Territory schools and a new Secrets of the Desert website.
- Introduce new activities to attract families and new hands-on activities in the courtyard for less mobile visitors.
- Install improved car park lighting to allow more evening events and activities.

Performance Measures Alice Springs Desert Park	05-06 Estimate	05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate
Quantity			
Visitors	85 000	90 040	87 000
Key new visitor experiences	2	2	4
Quality			
Visitor satisfaction	95%	96%	95%
Timeliness			
Daily guide presentations commenced on time	90%	97%	90%

Opposite Page

Main Photo:
Ormiston Gorge



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 the Territory Wildlife Parks Government Business Division. This requires the Department 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; and
- Territory Wildlife Parks

The Department Financial Statement Overview for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

This section of the report provides an analysis of the financial performance of the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts following its first year of operation.

The Department was created by Administrative Order in July 2005, and comprises the Conservation and Natural Resources Division and the Office of the Environment and Heritage from the former Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment, and the Arts and Museums Division from the former Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs.

As there are no 2004-05 comparatives available, an analysis of the actual outcome for 2005-06 is provided.

Operating Statement Summary	2005-06 \$'000
Income	124 967
Expenses	129 981
Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(5 014)

Income

The Department received its principal source of revenue (83 per cent or \$103 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 (\$10.58 million) and \$3.88 million from the sale of goods and services.

Income also includes notional revenue for services received free of charge from the Department of Corporate and Information Services (DCIS). DCIS corporate services charges are recognised as a notional expense and offset with notional revenue, which is referred to as 'services free of charge'. This income and expense item allows the Department to bring to account the costs of the centralised corporate services provided by DCIS. The services received from DCIS in 2005-06 totalled \$5.86 million.

Employee Expenses

The Department had 653 full time equivalent employees. Employee expenses totalled \$47 million and make up 36 per cent of the Department's expenses.

Some of the Department's employee expenses are externally funded through project grants. It is estimated that the Department may have up to 25 externally funded full time equivalents at any one point in time.

Administrative Expenses

Administrative expenses totalled \$50.2 million in 2005-06 and were comprised of the purchase of goods and services, property management, repairs and maintenance, depreciation and amortisation, asset revaluation expenses and DCIS services received free of charge.

The Department's administrative expenses include significant components of specific purpose funding over which the Department had limited discretion and flexibility to decide how these resources were spent, as well as expenses associated with Departmental responsibilities. The table below illustrates that almost \$18 million or 36 per cent of administrative expenses in 2005-06 were for non-transferable functions.

	2005-06 \$'000
Repairs and Maintenance	6 197
Depreciation and Amortisation	4 735
DCIS Services Free of Charge	5 859
Asset Expenses (one-off asset revaluation)	1 119
Total	17 910

Further details about the main components of the Department's goods and services expenses are included in note 6 of the financial statements.

Grants and Subsidies

In 2005-06, the Department distributed \$20.827 million in grants and subsidies. Grant recipients included arts industry organisations, natural resource management and biodiversity conservation community groups. A Community Service Obligation payment of \$7.817 million was made to the Territory Wildlife Parks Government Business Division for four non-commercial functions that were undertaken by the Alice Springs Desert Park and the Territory Wildlife Park at Berry Springs.

A major component of the Department's grants and subsidies expense was the distribution of funding under the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) Bilateral Agreement between the Australian and Northern Territory Governments.

An additional grants expense of \$7.148 million was recognised during the financial year as a result of a change in accounting policy and the establishment of an opening liability to the Australian Government for the NHT Single Holding Account. Further information is provided in note 14 to the financial statements.

A one-off capital grant of \$3.5 million was paid to the Katherine Town Council under a Memorandum of Understanding for the construction of a cultural precinct in Katherine.

Interest Expenses

Interest expenses in 2005-06 totalled \$0.512 million and reflect interest paid by the Department on cash balances held in the NHT Single Holding Account. The Department received interest revenue from Northern Territory Treasury Corporation on this portion of the cash balances to offset this expense.

Balance Sheet Summary	2005-06 \$'000
Total Assets	151 834
Total Liabilities	26 283
Equity	125 551

The Department's assets at 30 June 2006 comprised \$126.1 million of non current assets including land, buildings (i.e. the Museum and Art Gallery at Bullocky Point, Alice Springs Cultural Precinct), infrastructure (i.e. walking tracks, fences, weirs), transport equipment (i.e. drilling rigs and auxiliary equipment) and computer equipment. While the Department also holds a significant amount of works of art as part of the Art Galleries of the Northern Territory, these were not valued and recognised for financial reporting purposes in 2005-06.

Within current assets, cash and deposits held totalled \$24.1 million at 30 June 2006. Of this, \$15.3 million is Australian Government funds held in the NHT Single Holding Account.

Current liabilities at 30 June 2006 primarily reflect the significant funds that are held in the NHT Single Holding Account. These funds are recognised as liabilities to the Australian Government until a decision is made by the NHT Joint Steering Committee, comprising Australian Government and Northern Territory Government officials, to release the funds for approved projects. In addition there was a provision of \$4.9 million for employee entitlements such as recreation leave and recreation leave fares and \$3.26 million of accounts payable and accrued expenses.

Non current liabilities as at 30 June 2006 totalled \$2.3 million and reflect provisions for employee recreation leave that is unlikely to be utilised in the next 12 months.

Cash Flow Statement Summary	2005-06 \$'000
Net Cash from Operating Activities	2 505
Net Cash Used in Investing Activities	(590)
Net Cash from Financing Activities	22 158
Net Increase in Cash Held	24 073
Cash at Beginning of Reporting Period	0
Cash at End of Reporting Period	24 073

The net cash flow on the Cash Flow Statement is consistent with the results shown in the Operating Statement, except that the amounts vary in relation to accrual adjustments for both income and expenses. Depreciation and asset revaluations are major non cash expenses that can convert a cash flow surplus to an operating loss.

It is important to note that the Department's Cash Flow Statement differs to the financial information incorporated in the Treasurer's Annual Financial Statement which uses a derived cash flow model to calculate cash flow. The Cash Flow Statement presented in the Department's financial statements recognises actual cash flows by adjusting the derived cash flows for non cash balances transferred into the Department when it was created as part of the administrative restructure.

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 2006 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.



.....
David Ritchie
Chief Executive
30 September 2006



.....
Clare Milikins
Executive Director Finance and Governance
30 September 2006

Operating Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

	Note	2006 \$'000
INCOME		
<i>Grants and Subsidies Revenue</i>		
Current		10 582
Output Revenue		103 828
Sales of Goods and Services		3 888
Interest Revenue		512
Goods and Services Received Free of Charge ⁽¹⁾	4	5 859
Gain on Disposal of Assets	5	9
Other Income		289
TOTAL INCOME	3	<u>124 967</u>
EXPENSES		
Employee Expenses		47 044
<i>Administrative Expenses</i>		
Purchases of Goods and Services	6	32 365
Repairs and Maintenance		6 197
Depreciation and Amortisation	10	4 735
Other Administrative Expenses ⁽¹⁾		6 984
<i>Grants and Subsidies Expenses</i>		
Current		20 827
Capital		3 500
Community Service Obligations		7 817
Interest Expenses		512
TOTAL EXPENSES	3	<u>129 981</u>
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	3	<u>(5 014)</u>

1. Includes DCIS service charges.

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

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Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2006

	Note	2006 \$'000
ASSETS		
<i>Current Assets</i>		
Cash and Deposits	7	24 073
Receivables	8	1 593
Inventories	9	55
Prepayments		13
<i>Total Current Assets</i>		<u>25 734</u>
<i>Non-Current Assets</i>		
Property, Plant and Equipment	10	126 100
<i>Total Non-Current Assets</i>		<u>126 100</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>151 834</u>
LIABILITIES		
<i>Current Liabilities</i>		
Deposits Held	14	15 786
Payables	11	3 259
Borrowings and Advances	12	2
Provisions	13	4 906
Other Liabilities	14	6
<i>Total Current Liabilities</i>		<u>23 959</u>
<i>Non-Current Liabilities</i>		
Provisions	13	2 324
<i>Total Non-Current Liabilities</i>		<u>2 324</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>26 283</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>125 551</u>
EQUITY		
Capital	15	130 412
Reserves		535
Accumulated Funds		(5 396)
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>125 551</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 2006

	Note	2006 \$'000
BALANCE OF EQUITY AT 11 JULY		0
Capital	15	
Balance at 11 July		0
Equity Injections		4 604
Net Effect of Administrative Restructure		125 808
Balance at 30 June		130 412
Reserves	15	
Balance at 11 July		0
Increase/(Decrease) in Asset Revaluation Reserve		535
Balance at 30 June		535
Accumulated Funds	15	
Balance at 11 July		0
Net Adjustment on Transition to IFRS ^(a)	24	117
Correction of Prior Period Errors ^(b)	24	(499)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Period		(5 014)
Balance at 30 June		(5 396)
BALANCE OF EQUITY AT 30 JUNE		125 551

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

- (a) Non current employee provisions that were transferred to the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts from other agencies during the Administrative Restructure process have been adjusted to recognise the discounted net present value of the future benefits. This treatment is in accordance with the requirement of Australian equivalent for International Financial Reporting Standards.
- (b) The provision for employee entitlements balances that were transferred to the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts as part of the Administrative Restructure were incorrect. These balances have been corrected through equity and recognised as a correction of prior period errors.

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the Department

Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

	Note	2006 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Operating Receipts		
Grants and Subsidies Received		
Current		10 582
Output Revenue Received		103 828
Receipts From Sales of Goods And Services		6 892
Interest Received		455
Total Operating Receipts		<u>121 757</u>
Operating Payments		
Payments to Employees		(46 560)
Payments for Goods and Services		(40 036)
Grants and Subsidies Paid		
Current		(20 827)
Capital		(3 500)
Community Service Obligations		(7 817)
Interest Paid		(512)
Total Operating Payments		<u>(119 252)</u>
Net Cash From/(Used In) Operating Activities	16	<u>2 505</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Investing Receipts		
Proceeds from Asset Sales	5	<u>3</u>
Total Investing Receipts		3
Investing Payments		
Purchases of Assets	10	<u>(593)</u>
Total Investing Payments		<u>(593)</u>
Net Cash From/(Used In) Investing Activities		<u>(590)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Financing Receipts		
Proceeds of Borrowings		
Deposits Received	14	15 786
Equity Injections		
Capital Appropriation	15	520
Other Equity Injections		5 856
Total Financing Receipts		<u>22 162</u>
Financing Payments		
Finance Lease Payments		<u>(4)</u>
Total Financing Payments		<u>(4)</u>
Net Cash From/(Used In) Financing Activities		<u>22 158</u>
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held		24 073
Cash at Beginning of Financial Year		0
CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	7	<u>24 073</u>

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

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2. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies
3. Operating Statement by Output Group
- INCOME**
4. Goods and Services Received Free of Charge
5. Gain on Disposal of Assets
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16. Notes to the Cash Flow Statement
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20. Events Subsequent to Balance Date
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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

1. OBJECTIVES AND FUNDING

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts was created in July 2005. The Department was established by merging the Conservation and Natural Resources Division which included the Parks and Wildlife Service and the Office of Environment and Heritage from the former Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment, and Arts and Museums from the former Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs.

The Department is responsible for conserving, enhancing and ensuring best possible access to, and enjoyment of, the Territory's natural and cultural assets, including native wildlife and habitats, renewable natural resources, natural landscapes, historic buildings and places, and scientific and cultural collections. The Department also promotes and develops the arts sector.

Additional information in relation to the Department and its principal activities may be found in the Strategic Outcomes section of the annual report.

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

The Performance Reporting section of the annual report outlines the key actions undertaken by the Department during 2005-06 delivered by the seven Output Groups:

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

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 Agency 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 Department financial statements is consistent with the accrual budget format and the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards, including AASB 101, AASB 107 and AAS 29. 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 Department transactions and balances have been eliminated.

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

This is the Department's first financial report and incorporates the adoption of Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS). The adoption of Australian equivalents to IFRS has resulted in minor adjustments to the Department's opening equity position. Further information in relation to the Department's adoption of AIFRS may be found in note 24 – Impact of Adopting Australian Equivalents to IFRS.

(b) Agency 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 (Agency 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 23 - Schedule of Territory Items.

(c) Comparatives

As discussed in note 2(t), the Department was established as a result of the Administrative Restructure of 11 July 2005. As a new entity, the Department does not have comparative financial disclosures for the 2004-05 financial year in this financial report.

(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 of \$500 or less being rounded down to zero.

(e) Changes in Accounting Policies

Establishment of Accounting Policies

Following its establishment in July 2005, the Department established accounting policies as required by Treasurer's Directions. These policies are materially consistent with the policies adopted by the Agencies previously responsible for functions and outputs now undertaken by the Department with the exception of a change in treatment of funding received under the National Heritage Trust Bilateral Agreement as noted below.

The Department is responsible for management of Australian Government grant funds provided under the NHT Bilateral Agreement. Australian Government funds are receipted into the NHT Single Holding Account held by the Department and then released progressively as grants to projects once approved by the NHT Joint Steering Committee. In the past, grants revenue had been recognised when the funds were receipted into the Department. This accounting policy was reviewed when the Department gained responsibility for managing this Agreement in 2005-06 and it was determined that the funds within the Single Holding Account are not controlled by the Department and represent a liability to the Australian Government. This change in accounting policy had the impact of the Department recognising an additional \$7.148 million in grants expense for the year to establish the liability. This funding had been recognised in prior periods as grants revenue.

(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 Taxation 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 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

Income 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

Income 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.

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 that are ultimately payable to the beneficial owner – Refer also to note 21.

(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 uncollectible amounts. The collectibility of receivables is reviewed regularly, and part of this process is to assess, at reporting date, whether an allowance for doubtful debts is required.

(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 *Working for Outcomes*, the Department of Planning and Infrastructure is responsible for managing general government capital works projects on a whole of Government basis. Therefore appropriation for the 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.

The Department also receives grant funding some of which funds infrastructure development. Construction (Work in Progress) recognised in these financial statements reflects the estimated value of construction at 30 June for these projects.

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
- 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 preclude reliable measurement. Such assets, including works of art, have not been recognised in these 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:

Buildings	50 Years
Infrastructure Assets	8–50 Years
Plant and Equipment	10 Years
Leased Plant and Equipment	3–5 Years
Heritage and Cultural Assets	100 Years
Transport Equipment	10 Years
Computer Equipment	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.

Assets Held for Sale

Assets held for sale consist of those assets that management has determined are available for immediate sale in their present condition, and their sale is highly probably within the next twelve months.

These assets are measured at the lower of the asset’s carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell. These assets are not depreciated. Non-current assets held for sale have been recognised on the face of the financial statements as current assets.

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 15 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.

(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 Department. 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 introduction of *Working for Outcomes*, the Central Holding Authority assumed 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.

(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 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.

(r) 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 15 provide additional information in relation to contributions by, and distributions to, Government.

(s) Commitments

Disclosures in relation to capital and other commitments, including lease commitments are shown at note 18 and are consistent with the requirements contained in AASB 101, AASB 117 and AAS 29.

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

(t) Administrative Restructure

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts was established following the Administrative Restructure of 11 July 2005. As a result of the restructure, the new Department became responsible for all environment, heritage, conservation and natural resource functions previously undertaken by the former Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment and arts and museums functions previously undertaken by the former Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs.

The financial effect of the restructure resulted in the Department recognising \$124 million of assets for functions assumed.

3. Operating Statement by Output Group 2005-06

	Note	Parks and Reserves \$'000	Biological Parks \$'000	Natural Resources \$'000	Environment Protection \$'000
INCOME					
Grants and Subsidies Revenue					
Current		3		9 106	37
Output Revenue		28 764	8 160	37 269	3 135
Sales of Goods and Services		944	16	912	636
Interest Revenue				512	
Goods and Services Received Free of Charge	4	1 829	181	2 191	181
Gain on Disposal of Assets	5			9	
Other Income		6		233	
TOTAL INCOME		31 546	8 357	50 232	3 989
EXPENSES					
Employee Expenses					
		14 212	353	19 297	2 016
Administrative Expenses					
Purchases of Goods and Services	6	11 922	153	12 680	693
Repairs and Maintenance		3 578	20	106	
Depreciation and Amortisation	10	2 757	39	377	3
Other Administrative Expenses		1 831	181	2 197	181
Grants and Subsidies Expenses					
Current		54	2	14 534	758
Capital					
Community Service Obligations			7 817		
Interest Expenses				512	
TOTAL EXPENSES		34 354	8 565	49 703	3 651
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	15	(2 808)	(208)	529	338

3. Operating Statement by Output Group 2005-06 cont.

	Note	Heritage and Conservation	Scientific and Cultural Collections	Arts and Screen Industry Support	Total
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
INCOME					
Grants and Subsidies Revenue					
Current		50	989	397	10 582
Output Revenue		2 372	11 002	13 126	103 828
Sales of Goods and Services		6	708	666	3 888
Interest Revenue					512
Goods and Services Received Free of Charge	4	70	894	513	5 859
Gain on Disposal of Assets	5				9
Other Income		17	22	11	289
TOTAL INCOME		2 515	13 615	14 713	124 967
EXPENSES					
Employee Expenses					
		632	7 079	3 455	47 044
Administrative Expenses					
Purchases of Goods and Services	6	394	4 597	1 926	32 365
Repairs and Maintenance		742	767	984	6 197
Depreciation and Amortisation	10	1	878	680	4 735
Other Administrative Expenses		70	1 685	839	6 984
Grants and Subsidies Expenses					
Current		296	214	4 969	20 827
Capital				3 500	3 500
Community Service Obligations					7 817
Interest Expenses					512
TOTAL EXPENSES		2 135	15 220	16 353	129 981
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	15	380	(1 605)	(1 640)	(5 014)

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the Department

	2006 \$'000
4. GOODS AND SERVICES RECEIVED FREE OF CHARGE	
Corporate and Information Services	5 859
	<u>5 859</u>
5. GAIN ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS	
Net proceeds from the disposal of minor assets	6
Net proceeds from the disposal of capitalised assets	3
Less: Carrying value of non-current assets disposed	(0)
Gain on the disposal of assets	<u>9</u>
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⁾	1 365
Advertising ⁽²⁾	265
Marketing and Promotion ⁽³⁾	584
Document Production	304
Legal Expenses ⁽⁴⁾	190
Recruitment ⁽⁵⁾	941
Training and Study	541
Official Duty Fares	1 253
Travelling Allowance	781
7. CASH AND DEPOSITS	
Cash on Hand	13
Cash at Bank	24 060
Total	<u>24 073</u>
8. RECEIVABLES	
Current	
Accounts Receivable	515
Less: Allowance for Doubtful Accounts Receivable	(46)
	<u>469</u>
Interest Receivables	56
GST Receivables	1 068
Total Receivables	<u>1 593</u>

	2006
	\$'000
9. INVENTORIES	
General Inventories	
At cost	55
Total Inventories	<u>55</u>
Refer Note 1 (k)	
10. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	
Land	
At Fair Value ^(a)	9 925
Buildings	
At Fair Value ^(a)	141 575
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(45 946)</u>
	95 629
Infrastructure	
At Fair Value	28 409
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(11 362)</u>
	17 047
Construction (Work in Progress)	
At Capitalised Cost	<u>44</u>
	44
Plant and Equipment	
At Cost	4 462
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(2 514)</u>
	1 948
Leased Plant and Equipment	
At Capitalised Cost	30
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(28)</u>
	2
Heritage and Cultural Assets	
At Fair Value	22
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(7)</u>
	15
Computer Assets	
At Fair Value	658
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(528)</u>
	130
Transport Equipment Assets	
At Fair Value	2 674
Less: Accumulated Amortisation	<u>(1 316)</u>
	1 358
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	<u><u>126 098</u></u>

2006
\$'000

10. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT cont.

RECONCILIATIONS:

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2005-06 is set out below:

Land

Additions from Administrative Restructure	9 270
Additions/(Disposal) from Asset Transfers	120
Revaluation Increments/(Decrements)	535
Carrying amount at end of year	<u>9 925</u>

Buildings

Additions from Administrative Restructure	98 793
Additions/(Disposal) from Asset Transfers	1 300
Depreciation	(3 454)
Revaluation Increments/(Decrements)	(1 010)
Carrying amount at end of year	<u>95 629</u>

Infrastructure

Additions from Administrative Restructure	14 793
Additions/(Disposal) from Asset Transfers	2 991
Depreciation	(723)
Revaluation Increments/(Decrements)	(14)
Carrying amount at end of year	<u>17 047</u>

Construction (Work in Progress)

Additions	44
Carrying amount at end of year	<u>44</u>

Plant and Equipment

Additions	311
Additions from Administrative Restructure	1 466
Additions/(Disposal) from Asset Transfers	606
Depreciation	(339)
Revaluation Increments/(Decrements)	(96)
Carrying amount at end of year	<u>1 948</u>

Transport Equipment

Additions	194
Disposals	(16)
Additions from Administrative Restructure	1 295
Additions/(Disposal) from Asset Transfers	16
Depreciation	(131)
Carrying amount at end of year	<u>1 358</u>

	2006
	\$'000
10. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT cont.	
Computer Assets	
Additions	44
Additions from Administrative Restructure	169
Depreciation	(83)
Carrying amount at end of year	<u>130</u>
Heritage and Cultural Assets	
Additions from Administrative Restructure	16
Depreciation	(1)
Carrying amount at end of year	<u>15</u>
Leased Plant and Equipment	
Additions from Administrative Restructure	6
Depreciation	(4)
Carrying amount at end of year	<u>2</u>

(a) Property, Plant and Equipment Valuations

An independent valuation of land and buildings of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory at the Bullocky Point complex and Alice Springs Cultural Precinct was undertaken by the Australian Valuation Office as at 30 June 2006. 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 Department assets was based on their depreciated replacement cost.

Impairment of Property, Plant and Equipment

Department property, plant and equipment assets were assessed for impairment as at 30 June 2006. No impairment adjustments were required as a result of this review.

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	2006
	\$'000
11. PAYABLES	
Accounts Payable	1 704
Accrued Expenses	1 555
Total Payables	<u>3 259</u>
12. BORROWINGS AND ADVANCES	
Current	
Finance Lease Liabilities (refer note 18)	2
Total Borrowing's and Advances	<u>2</u>
13. PROVISIONS	
Current	
<i>Employee Benefits</i>	
Recreation Leave	3 652
Leave Loading	759
Other Employee Benefits (Recreation leave fares)	150
<i>Other Current Provisions</i>	
Other Provisions (Fringe Benefits and Payroll Tax)	346
	<u>4 907</u>
Non-Current	
<i>Employee Benefits</i>	
Recreation Leave	2 324
Total Provisions	<u>7 231</u>
Reconciliations of Provisions	
Balance as at 11 July 2005	
Provisions Transferred on Administrative Restructure	6 902
Additional Provisions Recognised	390
Reductions Arising from Payments	(61)
Balance as at 30 June 2006	<u>7 231</u>

The Department had 653 full time equivalent employees as at 30 June 2006

2006
\$'000**14. OTHER LIABILITIES****Current**

Deposits held for Natural Heritage Trust ⁽¹⁾	15 383
Other Liabilities - Accountable Officers Trust Account and Clearing Account	403
Unearned Revenue	6
Total Other Liabilities	15 792

Refer Note 1(e)

15. EQUITY

Equity represents the residual interest in the net assets of the Department. The Government's ownership interest in the Department is held by the Central Holding Authority as described in note 2(b).

Capital

Balance as at 11 July	0
<i>Equity Injections</i>	
Capital Appropriation	520
Equity Transfers In	4 084
Net Effect of Administrative Restructure	125 808
Balance as at 30 June	130 412

Reserves**Asset Revaluation Reserve**

(i) Asset Revaluation Reserve Land	535
------------------------------------	-----

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.

(ii) Movements in the Asset Revaluation Reserve

Balance as at 11 July

Increment/(Decrement) - Land	535
Balance as at 30 June	535

Accumulated Funds**Balance as at 11 July**

Surplus /(Deficit) for the Period	(5 014)
Correction of Prior Period Errors ^(a)	(499)
Net Adjustment on Transition to AIFRS ^(b)	117
Balance as at 30 June	(5 396)

(a) The provision for employee entitlements balances that were transferred to the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts as part of the Administrative Restructure were incorrect. These balances have been corrected through equity and recognised as a correction of prior period errors.

(b) Non current employee provisions that were transferred to the Department from other agencies during the Administrative Restructure process have been adjusted to recognise the discounted net present value of the future benefits. This treatment is in accordance with the requirement of AIFRS.

2006
\$'000

16. NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT

Reconciliation of Cash

The total of Department Cash and Deposits of \$24.073 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 Surplus/(Deficit)	(5 014)
Non-Cash Items:	
Depreciation and Amortisation	4 735
Asset Write-Offs/Write-Downs	1 117
Repairs and Maintenance Non-Cash	165
Changes in Assets and Liabilities:	
Decrease/(Increase) in Receivables	(1 436)
Decrease/(Increase) in Inventories	2
Decrease/(Increase) in Prepayments	80
(Decrease)/Increase in Payables	3 140
(Decrease)/Increase in Provision for Employee Benefits	388
(Decrease)/Increase in Other Provisions	(58)
(Decrease)/Increase in Other Liabilities	(614)
Net Cash From Operating Activities	<u>2 505</u>

17. 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). In respect of any dealings with organisations external to Government, the Department 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 Department's maximum exposure to credit risk without taking account of the value of any collateral or other security obtained.

(b) 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.

(c) Interest Rate Risk

The Department's exposure to interest rate risk and the average interest rate for classes of financial assets and financial liabilities is set out in the following tables. The average interest rate is based on the outstanding balance at the end of the year.

Fixed Interest Maturity

	Weighted Average Interest Rate	Variable Interest	Under 1 year	1 to 5 years	Over 5 years	Non-Interest Bearing	Total
	%	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2006 Financial Assets							
Cash and Deposits						8 690	8 690
Natural Heritage Trust Single Holding Account	5.29%	15 383					15 383
Receivables						1 593	1 593
Total Financial Assets:		15 383				10 283	25 666
Financial Liabilities							
Natural Heritage Trust Single Holding Account	5.29%	15 383					15 383
Payables						1 705	1 705
Finance Lease Liabilities						2	2
Total Financial Liabilities:		15 383				1 707	17 090
Net Financial Assets/(Liabilities):		0				8 576	8 576

2006
\$'000

18. COMMITMENTS

(i) Other Expenditure Commitments

Other non-cancellable expenditure commitments not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:

Within one year	460
-----------------	-----

(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	50
-----------------	----

Later than one year and not later than five years	133
---	-----

(iii) Finance Lease Commitments

The Department leases plant and equipment under finance leases expiring within 1 year. At the end of the lease term the Department has the option to purchase the equipment at agreed fair value at the expiry of the lease. Finance lease commitments are recognised as liabilities (refer also to note 12) and are payable as follows:

Within one year	2
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<i>Total Finance Lease Current Liabilities</i>	<u>2</u>
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19. 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 2006.

20. 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.

21. 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 at Restructure	Receipts	Payments	Closing Balance 30 June 2006
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Museums	1	2	1	2
Alice Springs Cultural Precinct	134	827	902	59
Bond Money	11	31	28	14
Security Deposits	77	3	2	78
Other Money	5	32	19	18
Total	228	895	952	171

22. WRITE-OFFS, POSTPONEMENTS AND WAIVERS

	Agency		Territory Items	
	2006 \$'000	No. of Trans.	2006 \$'000	No. of Trans.
Write-offs, Postponements and Waivers Under the <i>Financial Management Act</i>				
Represented by:				
<u>Amounts written off, waived and postponed by Delegates</u>				
Irrecoverable amounts payable to the Territory or an Agency written off	-	-		
Losses or deficiencies of money written off	-	-		
Public property written off	0	27		
Waiver or postponement of right to receive or recover money or property	1	2		
Total written off, waived and postponed by Delegates	1	29	-	-
<u>Amounts written off, postponed and waived by the Treasurer</u>				
Irrecoverable amounts payable to the Territory or an Agency written off	5	1		
Losses or deficiencies of money written off	-	-		
Public property written off	-	-		
Waiver or postponement of right to receive or recover money or property	-	-		
Total written off, postponed and waived by the Treasurer	5	1	-	-

2006
\$'000

23. 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

Fees from Regulatory Services	31
Royalties and Rents	3 519
Total Income	3 550

Expenses

Central Holding Authority Income Transferred	3 550
Total Expenses	3 500

Territory Income less Expenses	0
---------------------------------------	----------

The adoption of Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS) did not result in any adjustments to Territory items managed by the Department on behalf of the Government.

24. IMPACT OF ADOPTING AUSTRALIAN EQUIVALENTS TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS (AIFRS)

On establishment of this Department on 11 July 2005, AIFRS adjustments for non-current employee provisions were recognised and taken up for balances transferred from other agencies.

25. VARIATION TO THE TREASURER'S ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Department financial information incorporated into the Treasurer's Annual Financial Report (TAFR) differs to that provided in these financial statements.

While the Department's surplus/deficit was the same as that recorded in the TAFR the amounts recorded against income and expenses will show a variation of (\$1.162) million. This reflects the elimination of intra Departmental income and expense transactions associated with the delivery of natural resource management activities.

Cash Flow Statement variances are associated with the balance sheet items that transferred into the Department when it was established in July 2005. These adjustments were taken up within the year which resulted in a derived cash flow statement that does not accurately reflect movement of cash into and out of the Department during the financial year. In accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the Department has adjusted the derived cash flow statement to reflect true cash flows for 2005-06. A summary of the variations is shown below:

	Agency Financial Statements \$'000	Treasurer's Annual Financial Statement \$'000	Variance \$'000
<i>Operating Statement:</i>			
INCOME			
Grants and Subsidies Revenue			
Current	10 582	11 744	(1 162)
EXPENSES			
Grants and Subsidies Expenses			
Current	20 827	21 989	(1 162)
NET SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)	(5 014)	(5 014)	-
<i>Cash Flow Statement:</i>			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Total Operating Receipts	121 758	123 377	(1 619)
Total Operating Payments	119 252	113 923	(5 329)
Net Cash From/ (Used in) Operating Activities	2 506	9 454	(6 948)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Equity Injections			
Other Equity Injections	5 856	(1 092)	6 948
Total Financing Payments	22 162	15 213	6 949
Net Cash from Financing Activities	22 158	15 209	6 949

Territory Wildlife Parks Financial Statement Overview for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

This section of the financial report provides an analysis of the financial performance and key achievements of Territory Wildlife Parks for the year ended 30 June 2006.

Territory Wildlife Parks is a Government Business Division (GBD) responsible for managing the Alice Springs Desert Park and the Territory Wildlife Park at Berry Springs.

The key functions of the entity are to:

- Provide a quality visitor experience that showcases the biodiversity of the unique environments of the Top End and Central Australia.
- Contribute to the growth and development of the Northern Territory's tourism industry by providing quality tourism products.
- Contribute to the preservation of the Northern Territory's biodiversity through breeding rare and threatened plants and animals.

Income

Sale of goods and services income of \$1.87 million includes admission fees to the Parks, sales of goods, and rental income for businesses trading within the Parks.

Decreased sale of goods and services income in 2005-06 compared to 2004-05 was due to a prolonged wet season and consequential flooding during peak visitor times, resulting in decreased visitor numbers (162 424 in 2004-05 and 156 323 in 2005-06). A cessation in the sale of spring water and temporary income reductions for concessions trading within the Territory Wildlife Parks also contributed to the decline in income.

In 2004-05, one-off accrued income of \$0.32 million was recognised for the return of GST following the achievement of "Deductible Gift Recipient" status. Actual cash income received relating to this in 2005-06 was \$0.2 million, \$0.12 million less than anticipated resulting in lower revenue in 2005-06. For the first time since 2000, admission fees for both Parks were increased in April 2006 to enable the Territory Wildlife Parks to remain competitive with other comparable attractions in the Northern Territory and interstate. This will increase admission fee income for 2006-07 recovering some of the 2005-06 losses.

Operating Statement Summary	2005-06 \$'000	2004-05 \$'000
Sale of Goods and Services	1 872	2 277
Other Income From Ordinary Activities	7 893	7 520
Total Income	9 765	9 797
Employee Expenses	5 359	5 205
Depreciation and Amortisation	1 465	1 452
Other Expenses From Ordinary Activities	5 021	4 263
Total Expenses	11 845	10 920
Net Deficit	(2 080)	(1 123)

In 2005-06 the Territory Wildlife Parks received a Community Service Obligation (CSO) payment of \$7.82 million from the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts. A CSO arises when the Government requires a Government Business Division (GBD) to carry out activities which it would not elect to do on a commercial basis or would only do at higher commercial prices. CSO's allow the Government to achieve identifiable community or social objectives which would not be achieved if left to commercial outcomes.

The non-commercial functions carried out by the Territory Wildlife Parks focus on developing the Territory's tourism industry by providing a tourist facility/product that is not currently commercially viable, supporting the Territory's biodiversity through captive breeding of endangered, rare and threatened species and enhancing the education of school children by teaching them the benefits of the natural environment.

Expenses

Employee expenses increased in 2005-06 by \$0.15 million reflecting the appointment of a marketing manager and product development manager. These additional resources will facilitate the development of promotional and advertising initiatives to increase visitor numbers to the Territory Wildlife Parks.

Other expenses from ordinary activities comprise repairs and maintenance, property management, marketing and promotion, and the purchases of goods and services. Higher expenses in 2005-06 also resulted from increased repairs and maintenance to Territory Wildlife Park infrastructure following heavy rains and subsequent flooding in April 2006.

Also, the development of new visitor experiences including the introduction of new French audio guides at the Alice Springs Desert Park, camping for Northern Territory schools, leasing of new trains to transport visitors about the Territory Wildlife Park and materials to upgrade existing exhibits caused an increase to expenses. Additional signage creation for both Parks and zoology expenses for the introduction of new breeding programs also contributed to increases in expenditure.

Net Result

The net operating result for 2005-06 was a deficit of \$2.08 million which is a decline against the 2004-05 position. This is largely due to higher employee and goods and services expenses.

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Balance Sheet Summary	2005-06 \$'000	2004-05 \$'000
Total Assets	32 730	34 271
Total Liabilities	1 244	947
Net Assets	31 486	33 324
Total Equity	31 486	33 324

Assets

Assets decreased by \$1.54 million from 2004-05 due primarily to \$1.47 million in depreciation of non-current assets. This was offset by additions to non-current assets for building improvements, including new nature theatre seating, a new presentation area for the Alice Springs Desert Park, and upgrades of the emergency power system at the Territory Wildlife Park.

Liabilities

Liabilities include provisions for recreation leave, leave loading and fringe benefits and payroll tax. In 2005-06 an additional liability of \$0.22 million relating to employee expenses was recognised with this growth expected to continue in future years.

Cash Flow Statement Summary	2005-06 \$'000	2004-05 \$'000
Total Operating Receipts	10 345	10 489
Total Operating Payments	(10 560)	(10 340)
Total Investing Payments	(41)	(18)
Net (Decrease)/Increase in Cash Held	(256)	131

An increase in Community Service Obligation income for 2005-06 was offset by a decrease in visitor numbers which contributed to the decline in total operating receipts for the year. Employee expenses increased contributing to the increase in operating payments. In addition, other expenses from ordinary activities including repairs and maintenance for flooding and the introduction of breeding programs also contributed to the increase of operating payments for 2005-06.

Purchases of non-current assets including the development of new nature theatre seating and other infrastructure contributed to the increase in investing payments.



AUDITOR-GENERAL

**AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT TO
THE MINISTER FOR PARKS AND WILDLIFE
TERRITORY WILDLIFE PARKS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006**

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Scope

The financial report and the Accountable Officer's responsibility

The financial report of Territory Wildlife Parks comprises the statement by the Accountable Officer and operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity and cash flows and accompanying notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2006.

The Accountable Officer of the Agency is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial report in accordance with the requirements of the Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia and the *Financial Management Act*. This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial report.

Audit Approach

I conducted an independent audit in order to express an opinion to the Minister of Parks and Wildlife. My audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgement, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control systems and the availability of persuasive rather than conclusive evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements or control deficiencies have been detected.

I performed procedures to assess whether, in all material respects, the financial report presents fairly, in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia and of the *Financial Management Act*, a view which is consistent with my understanding of Territory Wildlife Parks' balance sheet and its operating statement as represented by the results of its operations and cash flows.

I formed my audit opinion on the basis of these procedures, which included:

- examining, on a test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial report; and
- assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Accountable Officer.

While I considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting when determining the nature and extent of my procedures, my audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

My audit did not involve an analysis of the prudence of business decisions made by the Accountable Officer or management.



AUDITOR-GENERAL

Page 2 of 2

Independence

I am independent of Territory Wildlife Parks and, in conducting my audit, I followed applicable independence requirements of the *Audit Act* and of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report of Territory Wildlife Parks:

- presents fairly the financial position of Territory Wildlife Parks at 30 June 2006, and its financial performance for the year ended on that date: and
- is presented in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia and the requirements of the *Financial Management Act*.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. McGuinness'.

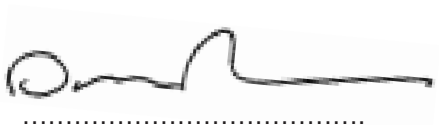
Frank McGuinness
Auditor-General for the Northern Territory
Darwin, Northern Territory
3 November 2006

Certification of the Financial Statements

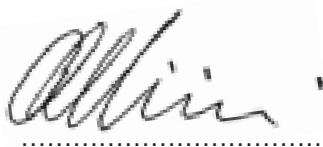
We certify that the attached financial statements for Territory Wildlife Parks have been prepared from proper accounts and records in accordance with the prescribed format, the *Financial Management Act* and Treasurer's Directions.

We further state that the information set out in the 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 2006 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.



.....
David Ritchie
Chief Executive
31 October 2006



.....
Clare Milikins
Executive Director Finance and Governance
31 October 2006

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Operating Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

	Note	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
INCOME			
Sales of Goods and Services		1 872	2 277
Other Income From Ordinary Activities		7 893	7 520
TOTAL INCOME	3	<u>9 765</u>	<u>9 797</u>
EXPENSES			
Employee Expenses		5 359	5 205
Depreciation and Amortisation	8	1 465	1 452
Other Expenses From Ordinary Activities		5 021	4 263
TOTAL EXPENSES	4	<u>11 845</u>	<u>10 920</u>
NET (DEFICIT)	11	<u>(2 080)</u>	<u>(1 123)</u>

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

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2006

	Note	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
ASSETS			
<i>Current Assets</i>			
Cash and Deposits	5	1 246	1 502
Receivables	6	344	452
Inventories	7	4	4
Total Current Assets		<u>1 594</u>	<u>1 958</u>
<i>Non-Current Assets</i>			
Property, Plant and Equipment	8	31 136	32 313
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>31 136</u>	<u>32 313</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>32 730</u>	<u>34 271</u>
LIABILITIES			
<i>Current Liabilities</i>			
Payables	9	492	416
Provisions	10	586	407
Total Current Liabilities		<u>1 078</u>	<u>823</u>
<i>Non-Current Liabilities</i>			
Provisions	10	166	124
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>166</u>	<u>124</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>1 244</u>	<u>947</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>31 486</u>	<u>33 324</u>
EQUITY			
Capital		14 511	14 269
Reserves		17 103	17 103
Accumulated Funds		(128)	1 952
TOTAL EQUITY	11	<u>31 486</u>	<u>33 324</u>

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

financial statements

territory wildlife parks – GBD

Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

	Note	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
BALANCE OF EQUITY AT 1 JULY	20	<u>33 324</u>	<u>34 104</u>
Capital	11		
Balance at 1 July		14 269	13 926
Equity Injections		<u>242</u>	<u>343</u>
Balance at 30 June		14 511	14 269
Reserves	11		
Balance at 1 July		<u>17 103</u>	<u>17 103</u>
Balance at 30 June		17 103	17 103
Accumulated Funds	11		
Balance at 1 July		1 952	3 075
(Deficit) for the Period		<u>(2 080)</u>	<u>(1 123)</u>
Balance at 30 June		(128)	1 952
BALANCE OF EQUITY AT 30 JUNE		<u>31 486</u>	<u>33 324</u>

The 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 2006

	Note	2006 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows	2005 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
<i>Operating Receipts</i>			
Community Service Obligation		7 817	7 445
Receipts From Sales of Goods And Services		2 458	2 962
Interest Received		70	82
Total Operating Receipts		<u>10 345</u>	<u>10 489</u>
<i>Operating Payments</i>			
Payments to Employees		(5 264)	(5 144)
Payments for Goods and Services		(5 296)	(5 196)
Total Operating Payments		<u>(10 560)</u>	<u>(10 340)</u>
Net Cash (Used In)/From Operating Activities	12	<u>(215)</u>	<u>149</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
<i>Investing Payments</i>			
Purchases of Assets	8	(41)	(18)
Total Investing Payments		<u>(41)</u>	<u>(18)</u>
Net Cash (Used In)/From Investing Activities		<u>(41)</u>	<u>(18)</u>
Net (Decrease)/Increase in Cash Held		(256)	131
Cash at Beginning of Financial Year		1 502	1 371
CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	5	<u>1 246</u>	<u>1 502</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 From Ordinary Activities
- EXPENSES**
4. Purchases of Goods and Services
- ASSETS**
5. Cash and Deposits
6. Receivables
7. Inventories
8. Property, Plant and Equipment
- LIABILITIES**
9. Payables
10. Provisions
- EQUITY**
11. Equity
- OTHER DISCLOSURES**
12. Notes to the Cash Flow Statement
13. Financial Instruments
14. Commitments
15. Community Service Obligations
16. Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets
17. Events Subsequent to Balance Date
18. Segment Information
19. Write-offs, Postponements and Waivers
20. Impact of Adopting Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

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. These are the two business segments detailed in note 18. 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 Operating 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 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 financial statements is consistent with the accrual budget format and the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards, including AASB 101, AASB 107 and AAS 29. 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.

This is Territory Wildlife Parks' first financial report prepared following the adoption of Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS). The adoption of AIFRS has resulted in minor adjustments to the entity's financial statements. Further information in relation to Territory Wildlife Parks' adoption of AIFRS may be found in note 20 – Impact of Adopting Australian Equivalents to IFRS.

Notes to the Financial Statements cont.

(b) Comparatives

Where necessary, comparatives have been reclassified and repositioned for 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 \$500 or less being rounded down to zero.

(d) Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes to accounting policies adopted in 2005-06 as a result of management decisions. Any changes to accounting policies that have been required as a result of the adoption of Australian equivalents to IFRS are not accounting policy changes for the purposes of AASB 108: Accounting Policies, Changes in Estimates and Errors. Note 20 provides information in relation to changes in accounting policies required following the adoption of AIFRS.

(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 tax rate of 30 per cent in accordance with the requirements of the Treasurer's Directions and the NT 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:

- (a) the entity derives future assessable income of a nature and amount sufficient to enable the benefit to be realised;
- (b) the entity continues to comply with the conditions for deductibility imposed by the Treasurer's Directions; and
- (c) there are no changes to the NT Tax Equivalent Regime that adversely affects the entity.

The tax loss to be carried forward is \$6.434 million (\$4.354 million in 2005)

(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.

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.

Interest Revenue

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

Sale of Non-Current Assets

The gross proceeds of non-current asset sales are included as revenue at the date control of the asset passes to the buyer, usually when an unconditional contract of sale is signed.

The profit 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.

Community Service Obligation Funding

Community Service Obligation funding is generally received from the Northern Territory Government when the 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.

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 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.

Notes to the Financial Statements cont.

(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 uncollectible amounts. The collectibility of receivables is reviewed regularly, and part of this process is to assess, at reporting date, whether an allowance for doubtful debts is required.

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.

Revaluations

The entity obtains an independent valuation of its property every three years. Property is currently carried at a value not materially different to its fair value. Plant and equipment is carried at cost.

Depreciation and Amortisation

Items of property, plant and equipment, including buildings but excluding land, have limited useful lives and are depreciated 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:

	2006	2005
Buildings	20-50 Years	20-50 Years
Infrastructure Assets	10 Years	10 Years
Plant and Equipment	5 Years	5 Years
Transport Equipment	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 or acquired assets may have modifications and accessories installed or equipment calibrated and tested, that will affect the date held ready for use.

(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.

Notes to the Financial Statements cont.

(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 12 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 12 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 introduction of *Working for Outcomes*, the Central Holding Authority assumed the long service leave liabilities of Government Agencies, 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. Any liability for superannuation is met directly by the Northern Territory Government and the entity has and will continue to have no other direct superannuation liability.

(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 in AASB 101, AASB 117 and AAS 29.

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

	Note	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
3. INCOME FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES			
Sale of Goods and Services From Ordinary Activities		1 872	2 277
Other income:			
Community Service Obligations	15	7 817	7 445
Other Revenue		-	2
NT Treasury Interest		70	73
Assets Acquired Below Fair Value		6	-
Total Income From Ordinary Activities		9 765	9 797
 4. PURCHASES OF GOODS AND SERVICES			
The net surplus/(deficit) has been arrived at after charging the following expenses:			
Depreciation:			
Buildings		738	731
Infrastructure		685	674
Plant and Equipment		41	47
Transport Equipment		1	-
Total Depreciation		1 465	1 452
Administrative Expenses:			
Consultants		1	1
Marketing and Promotion		273	232
Document Production		7	26
Legal Expenses		1	89
Recruitment		34	34
Training and Study		62	36
Official Duty Fares		50	32
Travelling Allowance		27	27
Audit and Other Services		24	12
Corporate Support by External Agencies		705	799
Net bad and doubtful debts expense including movements in provision for doubtful debts		(2)	3
Net expenses from movements in provision for employees benefits		601	538
Operating Lease Rental Expense		6	5
Net (gain) on disposal of non-current assets		-	(2)
 5. CASH AND DEPOSITS			
Cash on Hand		15	13
Cash at Bank		1 231	1 489
		1 246	1 502

financial statements

territory wildlife parks – GBD

Notes to the Financial Statements cont.

	2006	2005
	\$'000	\$'000
6. RECEIVABLES		
Current		
Accounts Receivable	96	117
Less: Allowance for Doubtful Accounts Receivable	(11)	(13)
	<u>85</u>	<u>104</u>
Interest Receivables	6	6
GST Receivables	205	(61)
Other Receivables	48	403
Total Receivables	<u>344</u>	<u>452</u>
7. INVENTORIES		
General Inventories		
At Cost	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
Total Inventories	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
8. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Buildings		
At Independent Valuation 30 June 2004	19 697	19 697
At Cost	507	295
	<u>20 204</u>	<u>19 992</u>
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(1 468)	(730)
Total Buildings	<u>18 736</u>	<u>19 262</u>
Infrastructure		
At Independent Valuation 30 June 2004	13 289	13 289
At Cost	335	304
	<u>13 624</u>	<u>13 593</u>
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(1 359)	(674)
Total Infrastructure	<u>12 265</u>	<u>12 919</u>
Plant and Equipment		
At Cost	1 401	1 362
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(1 271)	(1 230)
Total Plant and Equipment	<u>130</u>	<u>132</u>
Transport Equipment		
At Cost	6	-
Less: Accumulated Amortisation	(1)	-
Total Transport Equipment	<u>5</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	<u>31 136</u>	<u>32 313</u>

	2006	2005
	\$'000	\$'000
8. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT cont.		
RECONCILIATIONS:		
Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current and previous financial year are set out below:		
Buildings		
Carrying Amount at Beginning of Year	19 262	19 820
Additions	212	172
Depreciation	<u>(738)</u>	<u>(730)</u>
Carrying Amount at End of Year	<u>18 736</u>	<u>19 262</u>
Infrastructure		
Carrying Amount at Beginning of Year	12 919	13 428
Additions	31	165
Depreciation	<u>(685)</u>	<u>(674)</u>
Carrying Amount at End of Year	<u>12 265</u>	<u>12 919</u>
Plant and Equipment		
Carrying Amount at Beginning of Year	132	162
Additions	39	18
Depreciation	<u>(41)</u>	<u>(48)</u>
Carrying Amount at End of Year	<u>130</u>	<u>132</u>
Transport Equipment		
Additions	6	-
Depreciation	<u>(1)</u>	<u>-</u>
Carrying Amount at End of Year	<u>5</u>	<u>-</u>
9. PAYABLES		
Accounts Payable	345	182
Accrued Expenses	<u>147</u>	<u>234</u>
	<u>492</u>	<u>416</u>
10. PROVISIONS		
Current		
<i>Employee Benefits</i>		
Recreation Leave	358	323
Leave Loading	100	84
<i>Other Current Provisions</i>		
Other Provisions (Fringe Benefits, Payroll Tax and Superannuation)	<u>128</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>586</u>	<u>407</u>
Non-Current		
<i>Employee Benefits</i>		
Recreation Leave	<u>166</u>	<u>124</u>
	<u>166</u>	<u>124</u>
Total Provisions	<u>752</u>	<u>531</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements cont.

	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
11. EQUITY		
Capital		
Balance as at 1 July	14 269	13 926
Equity Injections		
Equity Transfers In	242	343
Balance as at 30 June	<u>14 511</u>	<u>14 269</u>
Reserves		
Asset Revaluation Reserve		
(i) Nature and Purpose of the 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.		
(ii) Movements in the Asset Revaluation Reserve		
Balance as at 1 July	17 103	17 103
Balance as at 30 June	<u>17 103</u>	<u>17 103</u>
Accumulated Funds		
Balance as at 1 July	1 952	3 075
(Deficit) for the Period	(2 080)	(1 123)
Balance as at 30 June	<u>(128)</u>	<u>1 952</u>

12. NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT

Reconciliation of Net Surplus/(Deficit) to Net Cash From Operating Activities

Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(2 080)	(1 123)
<i>Non-Cash Items:</i>		
Depreciation and Amortisation	1 465	1 452
Asset Below Fair Value	(6)	-
Repairs and Maintenance acquired at nil cost - SLA	1	7
(Gain)/Loss on Disposal of Assets	-	(2)
<i>Changes in Assets and Liabilities:</i>		
Decrease/(Increase) in Receivables	110	(119)
Decrease in Inventories	-	3
Decrease in Prepayments	-	4
Increase/(Decrease) in Payables	76	(50)
(Decrease)/Increase in Provision for Doubtful Debts	(2)	3
Increase/(Decrease) in Provision for Employee Benefits	221	(26)
Net Cash From Operating Activities	<u>(215)</u>	<u>149</u>

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 Territory Wildlife Parks include cash and deposits, receivables, payables and finance leases. 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) 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.

(c) Interest Rate Risk

The entity has limited exposure to interest rate risk. The entity's exposure to interest rate risk and the average interest rate for classes of financial assets and financial liabilities is set out in the following tables. The average interest rate is based on the outstanding balance at the end of the year.

Fixed Interest Maturity

	Weighted Average Interest Rate	Variable Interest	Non-Interest Bearing	Total
	%	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2006 Financial Assets				
Cash and Deposits	5.29%	1 231	15	1 246
Receivables		-	344	344
Total Financial Assets:		1 231	359	1 590
Financial Liabilities				
Payables		-	492	492
Provisions		-	752	752
Total Financial Liabilities:		-	1 244	1 244
Net Financial Assets/(Liabilities):		1 231	(885)	346
2005 Financial Assets				
Cash and Deposits	5.08%	1 489	13	1 502
Receivables		-	452	452
Total Financial Assets:		1 489	465	1 954
Financial Liabilities				
Payables		-	416	416
Provisions		-	531	531
Total Financial Liabilities:		-	947	947
Net Financial Assets/(Liabilities):		1 489	(482)	1 007

Notes to the Financial Statements cont.

	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
14. COMMITMENTS		
Non-cancellable Operating Lease Expense Commitments		
Future operating lease commitments not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:		
Within one year	4	5
Later than one year and not later than five years	14	1
	<u>18</u>	<u>6</u>

15. COMMUNITY SERVICE OBLIGATIONS

Community Service Obligation received	7 817	7 445
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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

The entity had no contingent liabilities or contingent assets as at 30 June 2006 or 30 June 2005.

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	
	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
Revenue	4 552	5 205	5 213	4 592	9 765	9 797
Profit/ (Loss) from Ordinary Activities	(1 146)	(324)	(934)	(799)	(2 080)	(1 123)
Net Non-current Assets	16 209	16 741	14 927	15 572	31 136	32 313
Unallocated Assets	-	-	-	-	1 594	1 958
Unallocated Liabilities	-	-	-	-	(1 244)	(954)

19. WRITE OFFS, POSTPONEMENTS AND WAIVERS

The entity had no write offs, postponements or waivers as at 30 June 2006 or 30 June 2005.

20. IMPACT OF ADOPTING AUSTRALIAN EQUIVALENTS TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS (AIFRS)

As discussed at note 2(a), this is the first financial report prepared following the adoption of AIFRS. The transition to AIFRS has only resulted in minor adjustments to the Territory Wildlife Parks' financial performance and financial position as discussed in greater detail below. The Parks' cash flows were not impacted. In accordance with AASB 1, the Parks was required to separately adjust 1 July 2004 opening balances and 2004-05 comparative financial information as summarised below.

<i>Impact Summary</i>		<i>Pre-IFRS</i>	<i>Impact</i>	<i>IFRS</i>
		<i>\$'000</i>	<i>\$'000</i>	<i>\$'000</i>
1 July 2004	Equity	34 095	9	34 104
30 June 2005	Capital Injections	343	-	343
30 June 2005	Surplus/(Deficit)	(1 121)	(2)	(1 123)
30 June 2005	Equity	33 317	7	33 324

Specific adjustments were made as follows:

Entity employee benefit liabilities that are not expected to be paid within 12 months are now required to be recognised as non-current liabilities and measured at present value. As a result of this change, \$137 151 of recreation leave liabilities were reclassified from current to non-current as at 1 July 2004 (with an additional \$13 085 reclassified as at 30 June 2005). Measuring the non-current portion of these liabilities at present value resulted in a \$8 599 reduction in non-current recreation leave liabilities being charged to equity as at 1 July 2004 (with an additional increase of \$1 794 charged to the Operating Statement as at 30 June 2005).

Adjustments to employee expenses and provisions were as follows:

	<i>2004-05 IFRS</i>			
	<i>2004-05</i>	<i>Opening Balance</i>	<i>2004-05 IFRS</i>	<i>IFRS</i>
	<i>\$'000</i>	<i>Adjustment</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>\$'000</i>
		<i>\$'000</i>	<i>\$'000</i>	
Employee Expenses	5203	-	2	5205
Total Employee Expenses	5203	-	2	5205
Net Operating (Deficit)	(1121)	-	(2)	(1123)
Current Employee Provisions	538	(146)	15	407
Non-current Employee Provisions	-	137	(13)	124
Total Employee Provisions	538	(9)	2	531

Opposite Page

Main Photo:

Jewel Bug feeding on
Bellyache Bush

Inset:

Dale Dixon
Herbarium



appendices





Statutory Authorities and Bodies as at 30 June 2006

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.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

- Chairman:** Mr Phillip Timothy
Members: Mr Neil Bradley
Mr John de Koning
Ms Adrienne Friday
Ms Annie Isaccs
Ms Kathy Jupiter
Ms Stephanie Jupiter
Ms Roxanne Jupiter
Mr Lincoln Wilson

Bushfires Council of the Northern Territory

The Bushfires Council is a statutory body established by the *Bushfires Act*, and is subject to the direction of the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage. The Council 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. The Minister appoints an independent chairman, a deputy chairman and members of the Bushfires Council for a three year term of office.

The Council has 17 members. Ten members chair the regional bushfires committees. They act as spokesmen for rural landowners and managers of pastoral, horticultural and agricultural enterprises in the Territory.

Representatives from the Bureau of Meteorology, Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service, CSIRO and the Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines provide professional input.

The *Bushfires Act* does not apply to the 0.5 per cent of Northern Territory land within main urban centres, which comes under the control of the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service.

The Council meets biannually to consider policy and debate issues affecting operational efficiency and future strategic direction.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

- Chairman:** Mr Brian Hill
Members: Mr Peter Saint
Mr Bruce Sawyer
Mr Richard Williams
Mr John Mora
Mr Ashley Severin
Mrs Dianne Tynan
Mr Peter Cooke
Mr Bruce Mouatt
Mr Don Roeuck
Mr Sean Leigh
Mr Otto Campion
Mr Alexander (Rod) McColm
Mr Tom Stockwell
Mr Geoff Garden
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 a basis of local knowledge, experience or skills in bushfire management. Together with the Bushfires Council, the committees have a combined membership of 60 principal shareholders or clients. Their main statutory function is the prevention and control of wildfires in their fire control regions.

Committees meet two to four times annually. The Minister appoints a chairman and deputy chairman for each committee, on advice from members.

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.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

Alice Springs East

Chairman: Mr Sean Leigh
Members: Mr David Bird
 Mr Ben Hayes
 Mr Edward Hayes
 Mr David Weir

RFCO: Mr Rod Herron

Alice Springs West

Chairman: Mr Ashley Severin
Members: Mr Walter Braitling
 Mr Douglas Simms
 Mr Roy Chisolm
 Mr Thomas Hall

RFCO: Mr Shane Brumby

Arafura

Chairman: Mr Ian Bradford
Members: Mr Doug McKean
 Mr Brian Muir
 Mr Sam Forwood

RFCO: Mr Christopher Whatley

Barkly

Chairman: Mr John Mora
Members: Mr Ernie Holt
 Mr Stephen Peatling
 Mr David Mylrea
 Mr Cameron Rasheed

A/RFCO: Mr Brian Dohnt

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 Eddie Webber

RFCO: Mr Bob White

Katherine

Chairman: Mr Gary Riggs
Members: Ms Sarah Kerin
 Mr George Thompson
 Mr Robert Wright
 Mr Preston Lee

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

RFCO: Mr Rob Maloney



Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary and Marine Park Board

The 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.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

Chairman: Mr John Christopherson

Deputy Chair: Mr Kenny Wauchop

Members: Mr Ronnie Ngundiwuy
Mr Richard Sellers
Mr David West
Mr Edward Williams
Ms Mary Yarmirr
Mr John de Koning

Conservation Land Corporation

The Conservation Land Corporation is a statutory body established under 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.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

Chairman: Mr Willem Goedegebuure

Members: Mr Mike Burgess
Mr Col Fuller
Dr David Ritchie

Darwin Regional Weeds Advisory Committee

The Darwin 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 Darwin region and to develop draft weed management plans.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

Chairman: Mr Mike Clark

Members: Ms Kate Hadden
Mr Bruce Sawyer
Mr Jim Forwood
Mr Robert Taylor
Mr Ian Brown
Mr Paul Wharam

Djukbinj National Park Local Management Committee

The 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.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

Chairman: Mr David John Kenyon

Members: Ms Joan Kenyon
Mr Brian Kenyon
Mrs Lynette Kenyon
Mr Bill Panton
Mr David West

Drillers Qualification Advisory Committee

The Drillers Qualification Advisory Committee is established under the *Water Act*. It is an advisory group with expertise in the water well drilling industry. The Committee provides advice to the Controller of Water Resources on the granting, renewal and variation of drilling licenses.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

- Chairman:** Vacant
Members: Mr Laurence Ah Toy
Mr Brian Kunde
Mr Grant Unsted
Mr Daryl Gibbons
Mr David George
Mr Chris MacHunter
Mr Richard Miller
Mr Kevin Sneyd
Mrs Vivian Topham

Heritage Advisory Council

The Heritage Advisory Council is a statutory body under section 7 of the *Heritage Conservation Act*. The Council advises the Minister on declaration and management of heritage places.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

- Chairman:** Mr Bob Alford
Members: Ms Susan Dugdale
Ms Elizabeth Close
Mrs Ruth Murphy
Mr Vic Stephens
Ms Lesley Mearns
Ms Anna Malgorzewicz
Mr David Curtis

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.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

- Chairman:** Mr Kevin Holzwart
Members: Ms Alice Beilby
Mr Micheal Crothers
Mr Rick Elliott
Mr Graeme Fagan
Mr Dan Halloran
Mr Brian Hill
Ms Elaine Watts

Museums and Art Galleries Board

The Museums and Art Galleries (MAGNT) Board was established under the *Museums and Art Galleries Act*. The role of the MAGNT Board is a trustee 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*.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

- Chairman:** Mr Colin McDonald QC
Members: Ms Elizabeth Close
(Deputy Chair)
Mr Graeme Addicott
Ms Peg Havnen
Dr Sylvia Kleinert
Mr Wayne Kraft
Ms Sylvia Siskamanis



Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park Board

The Board is a statutory body under the *Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park Act*. Its purpose is the management of the Nitmiluk National Park.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

- Chairman:** Mr John Ah Kit
Members: Ms Noeleen Andrews
Mr Ryan Baruwei
Mr John de Koning
Mr Greg Leach
Ms Lisa Mumbin
Mr Geoffrey James Walla
Mrs Anne Shepherd
Mr Jim Grant
Ms Nell Brown
Ms Mildred Brennan
Ms Jane Runyu-Fordimail

Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council

The Minister must establish a Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council to advise the Commission on matters concerning the management of parks and wildlife.

The members of the Council must be appointed by the Minister and must be persons who have an interest or expertise and knowledge in matters relating to the environment and the management and conservation of natural resources.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

- Chairman:** Mr Willem Goedegebuure
Members: Ms Penelope Figgis
Mr Robert Fox
Prof Gordon Duff
Mr Michael Jerram
Mr Matthew Ryan
Ms Jayne Weepers
Mr Djawa Yunupingu
Ms Anne-Marie Delahunt

Parks and Wildlife Commission

The Parks and Wildlife Commission Board is appointed by the Minister. The board has legislative responsibility for the strategic direction of all Parks and Wildlife activities.

The member at 30 June 2006 was:

- Members:** Dr David Ritchie

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.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

- Chairman:** Mr Jim Forwood AM
Members: Mr Steven Craig
Mr John Childs
Mrs Colleen Costello
Mr Thomas Stockwell

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.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

Chairman: Mr Matthew Bonson MLA

Members: Mr Dave Perry
Mr Kelvin Costello
Mr Dal Hartley
Mr Ian Kew
Ms Lesley Alford
Ms Joanne Manson
Ms Robyn Mauer
Ms Nerida Noble
Ms Liza Schenkel
Dr Simon Townsend
Vacant (Darwin City Council
Alderman Representative)

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 Indigenous 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.
- Implement repatriation decisions.

The Strehlow Research Centre Board consists of seven members.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

Chairman: Prof Charles Webb

Members: Dr Kathleen Strehlow
Mr Ross McDougall
Mr Greg Shanahan
Mr Garry Stoll
Mr Glen Uricht
Dr Dirk Megirian



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 ground water resources in the Ti Tree Water Control District. Local horticulture, pastoral, Indigenous and community interests, as well as specialist agronomic and hydrological expertise, are represented on the Committee. The Committee reports annually to the Minister.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

Chairman: Mr Andrew O'Bree

Members: Mr Peter McKeand
Mr Gary Dann
Mr Trevor Sowman
Mr Gavin Kahl
Mr Neil Feazy
Mr Alan Cooney
Vacant (Central Land Council nominee)

Agency Reps: Mr Geoff Kenna
Mr Graham Ride

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.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

Chairman: Mr Herman Malbunka

Members: Mr Andrew Bridges
Mr Chris Day
Mr Bevan Malbunka
Mr Justin Malbunka
Ms Maxine Malbunka



Legislation Administered

Act	Regulations under Act	Amendments to Act and Regulations
Bushfires Act	Bushfires Regulations Bushfires (Volunteer Bushfire Brigades) Regulations	Regulations specify the Constitution for Volunteer Brigades. Old regulations were repealed and new regulations introduced to ensure compliance with the <i>Associations Act</i> .
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	
Environmental Assessment Act	Environmental Assessment Administrative Procedures	
Environmental Offences And Penalties Act 1996		
Heritage Conservation Act	Heritage Conservation Regulations	Act is currently under review
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		Act amended by <i>Statute Law Revision Act 2005</i> (no 44 of 2005) to replace "Director of Commission" with "Director of Parks and Wildlife"
Nuclear Waste Transport, Storage And Disposal (Prohibition) Act 2004		Amended by <i>Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements)</i>
Ozone Protection Act	Ozone Protection Regulations	
Parks And Wildlife Commission Act		

Act	Regulations under Act	Amendments to Act and Regulations
Pastoral Land Act (except Part 8 administered by Department of Planning and Infrastructure)		<i>Act 2006 (no 7 of 2006) as a result of the repeal of the Remuneration (Statutory Bodies) Act and Remuneration Tribunal Act and its replacement with the Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006</i>
Soil Conservation And Land Utilization Act		
Strehlow Research Centre Act 2005		<i>Strehlow Research Centre Act repealed and replaced with the Strehlow Research Centre Act 2005.</i>
Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act	<p>Barranyi (North Island) Local Management Committee Regulations</p> <p>Djukbinj National Park Local Management Committee (Djukbinj Board) Regulations</p> <p>Flora River Local Management Committee Regulations</p> <p>Keep River National Park Local Management Committee Regulations</p> <p>Territory Parks And Wildlife Conservation By-Laws</p> <p>Territory Wildlife Park Management Committee Regulations</p> <p>Territory Wildlife Regulations</p> <p>Tnorala Local Management Committee Regulations</p>	<p><i>Act amended to allow for infringement notices to be issued against by-laws generally, by-laws generally to be regulatory, and to make offences against section 67D and 69 regulatory</i></p> <p><i>Territory Parks And Wildlife Conservation By-Laws amended to provide for new fees for the Territory Wildlife Park and Alice Springs Desert Park</i></p>
Waste Management And Pollution Control Act	<p>Waste Management And Pollution Control (Administration) Regulations</p> <p>Environment Protection (National Pollutant Inventory) Objective</p>	
Water Act	Water Regulations	
Weeds Management Act 2001		



appendix 3

Capital Works Program

Capital Works - Department*

	Program	Revised Program	Expended	Revoted into 2006-07
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
REVOTED WORKS				
Parks and Reserves				
Gregory National Park Victoria River: Provision of river access and boat ramp	1 000	0	1 000	0
Channel Point: Development of park infrastructure including a boat launching facility, campground, road, parking and interpretive signage (LaBelle Downs boating facility)	620	0	24	596
Total Revoted Works	1 620	0	1 024	596
NEW WORKS				
Parks and Reserves				
Channel Point: Ranger accommodation and secure storage facilities	400	0	14	386
West MacDonnell National Park Development: stage 1 upgrade and expand visitor facilities at western entry, including additional shade shelters, presentation area, water treatment area, ablutions, expand car parks and camp grounds, and emergency call devices	1 000	0	0	1 000
Natural Resources				
Mary River Wetlands: Desalination – constructing new weirs and upgrading existing weirs for saltwater intrusion control works, including further upgrades on submerged weirs at Tommycut Creek	500	0	500	0
Department as a Whole				
Goyder Building: Consolidate administrative arrangements and upgrade security for the Department	0	716	250	466
Total New Works	1 900	716	764	1 852
TOTAL	3 520	716	1 788	2 448

Minor New Works - Department*

	Program	Revised Program	Expended	Revoted into 2006-07
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
REVOTED WORKS				
Parks and Reserves	208	0	208	0
Heritage and Conservation	130	0	130	0
Scientific and Cultural Collections	10	0	10	0
Total Revoted Works	348	0	348	0
MINOR NEW WORKS				
Parks and Reserves	884	0	295	589
Biological Parks	6	0	6	0
Natural Resources	250	0	250	0
Heritage and Conservation	70	0	6	64
Scientific and Cultural Collections	230	0	163	67
Arts and Screen Industry Support	190	0	150	40
Total Minor New Works	1 630	0	870	760
TOTAL	1 978	0	1 218	760

Minor New Works Projects Completed in 2005-06

- Upgraded West McDonnell National Park Ormiston Gorge water storage.
- Replaced Owen Springs fuel storage tank.
- Developed the Mary River National Park Jimmy Creek elevated boardwalk.
- Replaced the Elsey National Park office accommodation.
- Installed a radio repeater at the Sturt Plateau.
- Constructed shade shelters in campgrounds at the Garig Gunak Barlu National Park.
- Developed the Strauss Airstrip site for the Heritage Trail.
- Upgraded Strehlow Research Centre exhibition display cabinets.
- Increased storage components for collection storage at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.
- Replaced boom lighting at the Araluen Centre for Arts and Entertainment.
- Upgraded Bushfires Council storage facility.
- Conducted a replacement program for generators at Ormiston Gorge, Walker Creek, Black Point and Keep River.
- Installed emergency call devices at Nitmiluk National Park and Leliyn (Edith Falls).
- Upgraded lighting in the front car park at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.
- Replaced lighting table in the theatre at the Araluen Centre for Arts and Entertainment.
- Upgraded facilities at the Leanyer Recreation Park.



Repairs and Maintenance - Department*

	Program \$'000	Revised Program \$'000	Expended \$'000	Revoted into 2006-07 \$'000
Parks and Reserves	3 480	(70)	3 190	220
Biological Parks	118	0	111	7
Natural Resources	155	0	146	9
Heritage and Conservation	1 000	0	799	201
Scientific and Cultural Collections	1 019	0	977	42
Arts and Screen Industry Support	728	0	692	36
TOTAL	6 500	(70)	5 915	515

Repairs and Maintenance Projects Completed in 2005-06:

- Replaced wall cladding, repaired roofs and repainted the Old Qantas Hangar Darwin.
- Refurbished gun sight pedestal at the Quarantine Anti Aircraft Battery Site Darwin.
- Repaired roof shingles, windows and doors and repainted Lyons Cottage
- Repainted the former RAAF Explosive Stores Darwin.
- Repaired and repainted the Adelaide River Railway Station.
- Plumbing and electrical repairs at the Cape Don Lighthouse Precinct Cobourg Peninsular.
- Improved site drainage at the Araluen Homestead Precinct Alice Springs.
- Repaired the storeroom and roof at the Connellan Hangar Alice Springs.
- Made repairs to stone well at Bonney Well Tennant Creek.
- Preservation repairs to stone buildings Stage 1 Tennant Creek Telegraph Station, Tennant Creek.
- Maintenance to stockyard and homestead at Bullita Station Precinct Timber Creek.
- Replaced guy wires for Overland Telegraph Pylons at Katherine.
- Cladding Stage 1 at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.
- Repairs and maintenance to park furniture in the Alice Springs region.
- Installed a replacement river pump at Elsey National Park.
- Undertook repairs to walkways at Mataranka Thermal Pools.

Capital Grants - Department*

	Program	Revised Program	Expended	Revoted into 2006-07
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Arts and Screen Industry Support				
Katherine Cultural Precinct	0	3 500	3 500	0
Stage 1 - Katherine Town Council is holding the capital grant under a memorandum of understanding pending the development of a staged master plan for the Precinct and a formal agreement between Council and the Northern Territory Government in relation to the design, documentation and expenditure for the project.				
TOTAL	<u>0</u>	<u>3 500</u>	<u>3 500</u>	<u>0</u>



Externally Funded Projects - Department*

The Agency also receives funding from a number of external bodies, notably the Australian Government. This funding can provide for additional infrastructure works outside core Northern Territory Government funded projects.

Additional funding can also be obtained from other Northern Territory Government Agencies, such as Tourism NT, to support their activities. This reflects the Agency's role as custodian of the Territory's natural and cultural assets, many of which are integral to the achievement of outcomes of other areas of Government.

	External Funding	NRETA Funding	Expended	Revoted into 2006-07
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Parks and Reserves				
Installation of a solar bore at Keep River National Park for economic efficiency-funded by Building Sustainability Services of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure	36	0	36	0
Built two three bedroom elevated houses at Nitmiluk National Park to accommodate park ranger staff managing Nitmiluk-funded by Territory Housing	530	18	548	0
Installation of two composting toilets along the Jatbula Trail in Nitmiluk National Park to improve visitor experience-funded by Tourism NT	125	0	125	0
Completed an art site board walk at Keep River-funded by Tourism NT	120	0	83	37
Installed emergency landing lights at the airstrip at the Nathan River homestead-funded by Tourism NT	19	0	19	0
TOTAL	830	18	811	37

Minor New Works - Territory Wildlife Parks - GBD*

	Program	Revised Program	Expended	Revoted into 2006-07
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
REVOTED WORKS				
Territory Wildlife Park	25	0	25	0
Total Revoted Works	25	0	25	0
MINOR NEW WORKS				
Alice Springs Desert Park	220	0	125	95
Territory Wildlife Park	160	0	145	15
Total Minor New Works	380	0	270	110
TOTAL	405	0	295	110

Minor New Works Projects Completed in 2005-06:

- Replaced existing stand-by generator set at the Territory Wildlife Park.
- Installed a French language audio guide at Alice Springs Desert Park.
- Developed interpretive signage throughout the Territory Wildlife Park.
- Upgraded security in the admission area of the Territory Wildlife Park.



Repairs and Maintenance - Territory Wildlife Parks - GBD*

	Program	Revised Program	Expended	Revoted into 2006-07
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Alice Springs Desert Park	290	0	288	2
Territory Wildlife Park	350	70	356	64
TOTAL	640	70	644	66

Repairs and Maintenance Projects Completed in 2005-06:

- Furniture and structure maintenance at the Alice Springs Desert Park.
- Repaired storm water pit and pipes at the Territory Wildlife Park.

* Information source: BP4 DCDSCA 2004-05 Annual Report and DIPE Annual Report 2004-05 and the Northern Territory Government's Asset Information System.



Agency Contact Details

Arts and Museums

Alice Springs Cultural Precinct
Larapinta Drive
Alice Springs NT 0870
08 8951 1190
1800 678 237 (toll free)
08 8951 1161 (fax)
culturalprecinct.nreta@nt.gov.au

Museum of Central Australia
Alice Springs Cultural Precinct
Larrapinta Drive
Alice Springs NT 0870
08 8951 1121
08 8951 1107 (fax)
museumca.dam@nt.gov.au

Araluen Centre
Alice Springs Cultural Precinct
Larrapinta Drive
Alice Springs NT 0870
08 8951 1120
08 8953 0259 (fax)
araluencentre.nreta@nt.gov.au

Northern Territory Film Office
61 Larapinta Drive
Alice Springs NT 0871
08 8951 1162
08 8951 1165 (fax)
film.office@nt.gov.au

Strehlow Research Centre
Cnr Larapinta Drive and Memorial Avenue
P O Box 831
Alice Springs NT 0871
08 8951 1111
08 8951 1110 (fax)
strehlow@nt.gov.au

Arts NT
1st Floor 9 -11 Cavenagh Street
Darwin NT 0800
GPO Box 1774 Darwin NT 0801
08 8999 8981
1800 678 237 (toll free)
08 8999 8949 (fax)
arts.office@nt.gov.au

Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
Conacher Street
Bullocky Point
Darwin NT 0820
GPO Box 4646 Darwin NT 0801
08 89 998201
08 89 998159 (fax)
museum@nt.gov.au

Lyons Cottage
74 The Esplanade
Darwin NT 0800
08 8999 1750
08 8981 8289 (fax)

Fannie Bay Gaol
East Point Road
Fannie Bay Darwin NT 0820
08 8999 8264
08 8981 8289 (fax)

Biological Parks

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

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

George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens
Geranium Street
Darwin NT 0800
08 8981 1958
08 8981 1647 (fax)
botgardens.darwin@nt.gov.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

Environment and Heritage

epa.nreta@nt.gov.au
heritage.nreta@nt.gov.au
2nd Floor Darwin Plaza
41 Smith Street Mall
Darwin NT 0800
08 8924 4139
08 8924 4053 (fax)

2nd Floor Goyder Building
22 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 3413
08 8999 4403 (fax)

1st Floor Alice Plaza
Alice Springs NT 0870
08 8951 9201
08 8951 9222 (fax)

Executive and Corporate Services

legalservices.nreta@nt.gov.au
generalservices.nreta@nt.gov.au
finance.nreta@nt.gov.au
library.nreta@nt.gov.au
records.nreta@nt.gov.au
secretariat.nreta@nt.gov.au
media.nreta@nt.gov.au
marketing.nreta@nt.gov.au
webadmin.nreta@nt.gov.au

1st floor Goyder Building
22 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
PO Box 496 Palmerston NT 0831
08 8999 4504
08 8999 4722 (fax)

1st floor Alice Springs Plaza
Alice Springs NT 0870
08 8951 9269
08 8951 9268 (fax)

Land and Water

Land and Vegetation Branch
4th Floor Goyder Building
22 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 4579
08 8999 3667 (fax)

Water Resources Branch
4th Floor Goyder Building
22 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 3606
08 8999 3666 (fax)

Technical Services Branch
4th Floor Goyder Building
22 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 3642
08 8999 3666 (fax)

Spatial Data and Mapping Branch
4th Floor Goyder Building
22 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 3603
08 8999 3666 (fax)

Coastal and Marine Hydrology Branch
4th Floor Goyder Building
22 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 3694
08 8999 3666 (fax)

Water Resources and Operations Branch
- Southern Region
1st Floor Alice Springs Plaza
Alice Springs NT 0870
08 8951 9203
08 8951 9222 (fax)

Biodiversity Conservation

Biodiversity North / Wildlife Management
Operations
CSIRO Complex
Vanderlin Drive
Berrimah NT 0820
08 8944 8453
08 8944 8455 (fax)

Biodiversity South / Wildlife Management
Tom Hare Building
Stuart Hwy
Alice Springs NT 0870
08 8951 8226
08 8955 5190 (fax)

Biodiversity Katherine / Wildlife Management
Giles Street
Katherine NT 0870
08 8973 8857
08 8973 8899 (fax)



Marine Biodiversity
Arafura-Timor Research Facility
23 Ellengowan Drive
Brinkin NT 0810
08 8920 9261
08 8920 9222 (fax)

NT Herbarium - North
Ground Floor Herbarium
Mansfield Steet
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 4516
08 8999 4527 (fax)

NT Herbarium - South
Alice Springs Desert Park
Larapintja Drive
Alice Springs NT 0870
08 8951 8791
08 8951 8790 (fax)

Parks

Darwin Region
2nd Floor Goyder Centre
22 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 4555
08 8999 4558 (fax)
parkplanning.nreta@nt.gov.au
parksandwildlife.permits@nt.gov.au
parksmasterplan.nreta@nt.gov.au

Katherine Regional Office
32 Giles Street
Katherine NT 0850
08 8973 8888
08 8973 8899 (fax)

Alice Springs Regional Office
Tom Hare Building
Arid Zone Research Institute
Alice Springs NT 0870
08 8951 8250
08 8951 8290 (fax)

Natural Resource Management

Resource Management North
3rd Floor Goyder Centre
22 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 4537
08 8999 4403 (fax)

Bushfires NT
Albatross Street
Winnellie NT 0820
08 8922 0832
08 8922 0833 (fax)

Weed Management North
3rd Floor Goyder Building
22 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 4414
08 8999 4403 (fax)

Water Management North
3rd Floor Goyder Centre
22 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 4892
08 8999 4403 (fax)

Rangeland Management North
3rd Floor Goyder Centre
22 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 4474
08 8999 4403 (fax)

Community Programs North
3rd Floor Goyder Centre
22 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 4464
08 8999 4403 (fax)

Vegetation and Land Management North
3rd Floor Goyder Centre
22 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 3467
08 8999 4403 (fax)

Resource Management Katherine Region
Randazzo Building
Katherine NT 0850
08 8973 8100
08 8973 8122 (fax)

Resource Management Southern Region
1st floor Alice Springs Plaza
Alice Springs NT 0870
08 8951 9259
08 8951 9222 (fax)

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