



Northern
Territory
Government

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND THE ARTS

Annual Report 2006-2007



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

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Environment and The Arts
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Cover Photos left to right: Katie Berto repairing fences at Howard Springs Nature Park, Peter Clifton spraying Cabomba in Darwin River Dam and Christine Tarbett Buckley with exhibits at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.
All photos by Skyscans

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 2006-07 financial year.

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

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

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

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

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

Target Audience

This Annual Report provides information to numerous target audiences on the Agency's activities and achievements with the 2006-07 financial year. It's tabled in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly as an accountability reporting mechanism for the Agency's respective Ministers and the Parliament. The Annual Report is a finalisation of the Agency's achievements, income and financial expenditure from the *Northern Territory Treasurer's Budget 2006*.

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

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

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

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

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

Dear Ministers

I am pleased to present you with the annual report of the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts for the financial year 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007.


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

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

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

- b) procedures within the Agency afford proper internal control and a current description of such procedures is recorded in the accounting and property manual which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Financial Management Act*;
- c) no indication of fraud, malpractice, major breach of legislation or delegation, major error in or omission from the accounts and records exists;
- d) in accordance with Section 15 of the *Financial Management Act* I advise that as at 30 June 2007 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
22 November 2007

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NRETA Supported Centres	back cover
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Overview



An Assessment by the Chief Executive

In the second year of operation several achievements by the Agency stand out. These include: the framework for the Environment Protection Authority; better community involvement in decisions about sustainable development in the Daly River Basin, accelerated work on the joint management of our Parks and Reserves and the Living Rivers Program.

The Agency also continued to develop and maintain recreational and educational opportunities at our Parks and Museums and Art Galleries, through improved visitor facilities and programs, such as Australia Under Attack 1942-1943 exhibition at the Museum And Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. The Territory Wildlife and Alice Springs Desert Park also implemented new educational exhibits.

As a result of these and other programs involving the community the central role of the Agency is better recognized. Our programs are helping Territory communities to keep demands on natural resources within sustainable limits. Our programs are also helping retain our unique heritage and fostering artistic expression. In doing this we have provided an opportunity for Territorians and visitors to experience our natural and cultural resources and use them as a source of inspiration, innovation and personal and economic growth.

The Northern Territory Government's historic endorsement of the Environment Protection Agency Board's report and proposed model for the new Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is also an endorsement of the views of the community and stakeholders expressed through the extensive consultation completed across the Territory in 2006-07. The result will be an EPA that is right for the Northern Territory.

This EPA will take on the role of an independent statutory advisory body, with a strategic role and the ability to scrutinise regulatory systems across government agencies, and assist both business and government to make informed decisions about ecologically sustainable development.

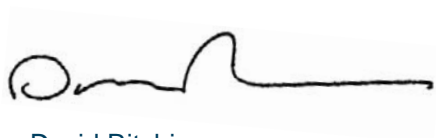
As part of the joint management initiative, the Agency continued to develop strong partnerships with Traditional Owners to progress joint management plans and retain Indigenous trainees in our Parks and Reserves. Draft Management Plans for Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve, Flora River Nature Park and Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve have all been developed and released for public comment. Additionally, the joint management planning process with traditional owners spanning the entire West MacDonnell National Park has now commenced.

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 park rangers with the opportunity to learn traditional land management practices from Traditional owners. Flexible employment and training arrangements through joint management, including formal traineeships, mature age and school based apprenticeships and job sharing arrangements have increased Indigenous employment outcomes.

The Living Rivers Program focuses on establishing new institutional arrangements for community involvement and decision making. This is taking place through the Daly River Management Advisory Committee, the Katherine Water Advisory Committee and the proposed Living Rivers Ministerial Council. First priorities of the program include determining appropriate adaptive management processes for water allocation and land clearing and scientific and engineering studies to better understand surface/groundwater interactions.

Internally, the Agency finalised *Strategic Objectives 2007-14*, which integrates our objectives with our vision, values and key functional responsibilities. Corporate governance frameworks were also strengthened, by establishing an audit committee with strong external representation.

I thank staff for the enthusiasm and creativity that has contributed to the Agency's achievements detailed in this annual report, and look forward to building again on this momentum in 2007-08.



David Ritchie
Chief Executive

About the Agency

This Agency plays a crucial role in the Northern Territory and its creation in 2005 represents an important change in the way government organises the delivery of its environmental and cultural programs. The Agency's task is to ensure the Territory's natural and cultural values are protected, understood, celebrated and encouraged to thrive. To achieve this purpose, the Agency must help the community understand the Territory's biophysical environments and celebrate the Territory's distinctive cultures and histories. Better management of these natural and cultural assets will be built on appreciation of the ways that our often challenging physical environments have shaped and continue to shape our complex society.

Our Vision

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

Purpose

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

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

Strategic Objectives

By working effectively to achieve this Vision, over the next seven years the Agency will succeed in being:

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

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

Key Functional Responsibilities

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

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

Strategic Role

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

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

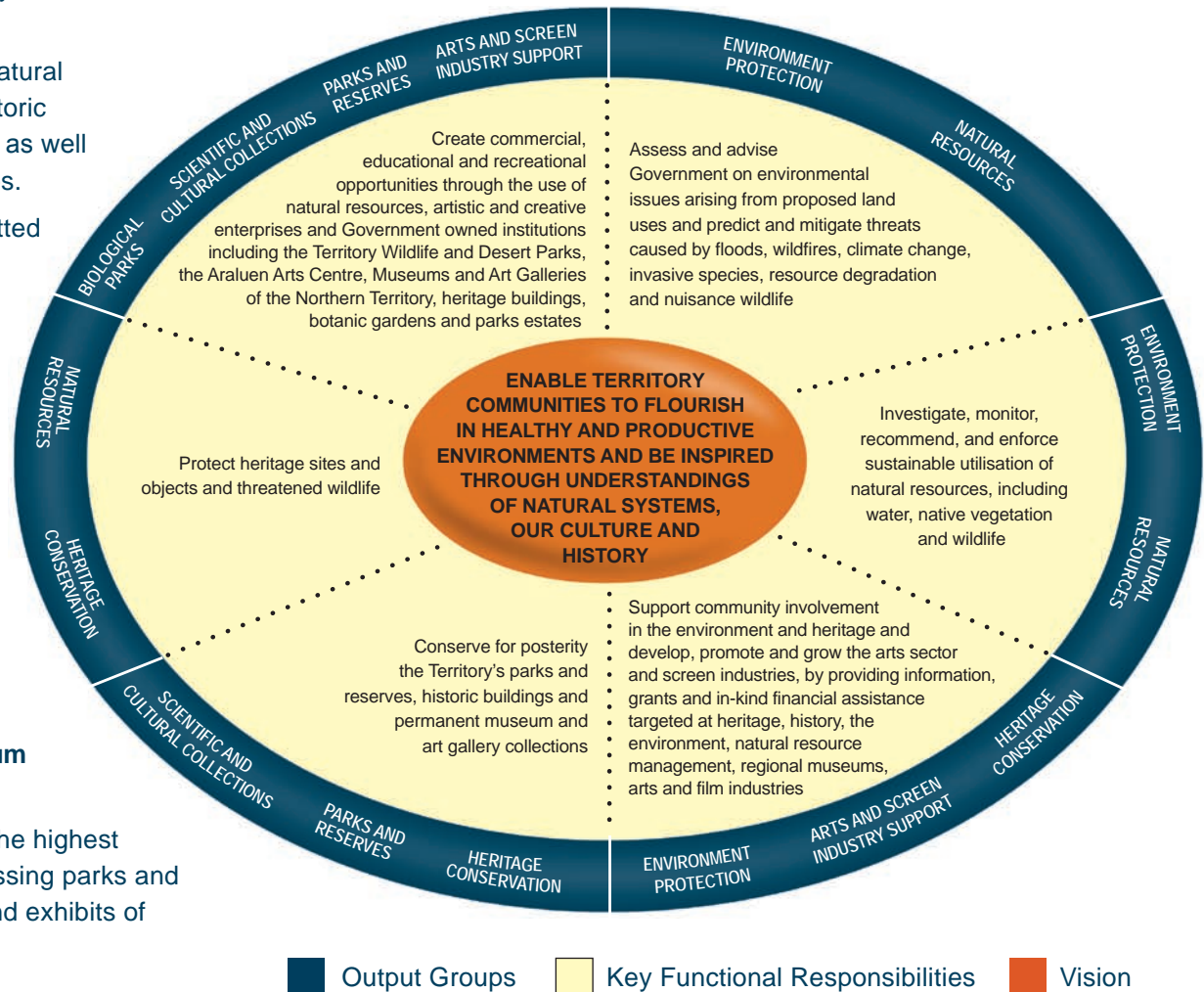
The Agency has seven Output Groups that are committed to ensuring the Agency fulfils its Key Functional Responsibilities, and in turn its Vision.

The work completed by the Agency's Output Groups, known as Outputs, are detailed in the Performance Reporting section of this annual report on page 105. These Output Groups are structured from a Budget Paper perspective. The Agency's internal operational structure, as detailed on page 12, indicates which areas of the Agency make-up the Output Groups.

How We Achieve This

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

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



2. Protect heritage sites and objects and threatened wildlife

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

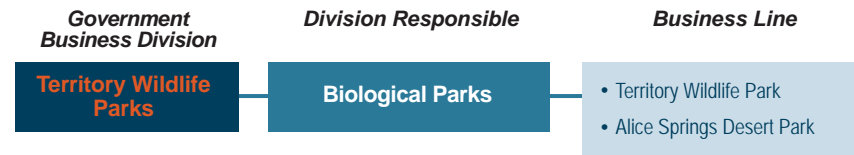
6. Create commercial, educational and recreational opportunities through the use of natural resources, artistic and creative enterprises and government owned institutions including the Territory Wildlife and Alice Springs Desert Parks, the Araluen Arts Centre, Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern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

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

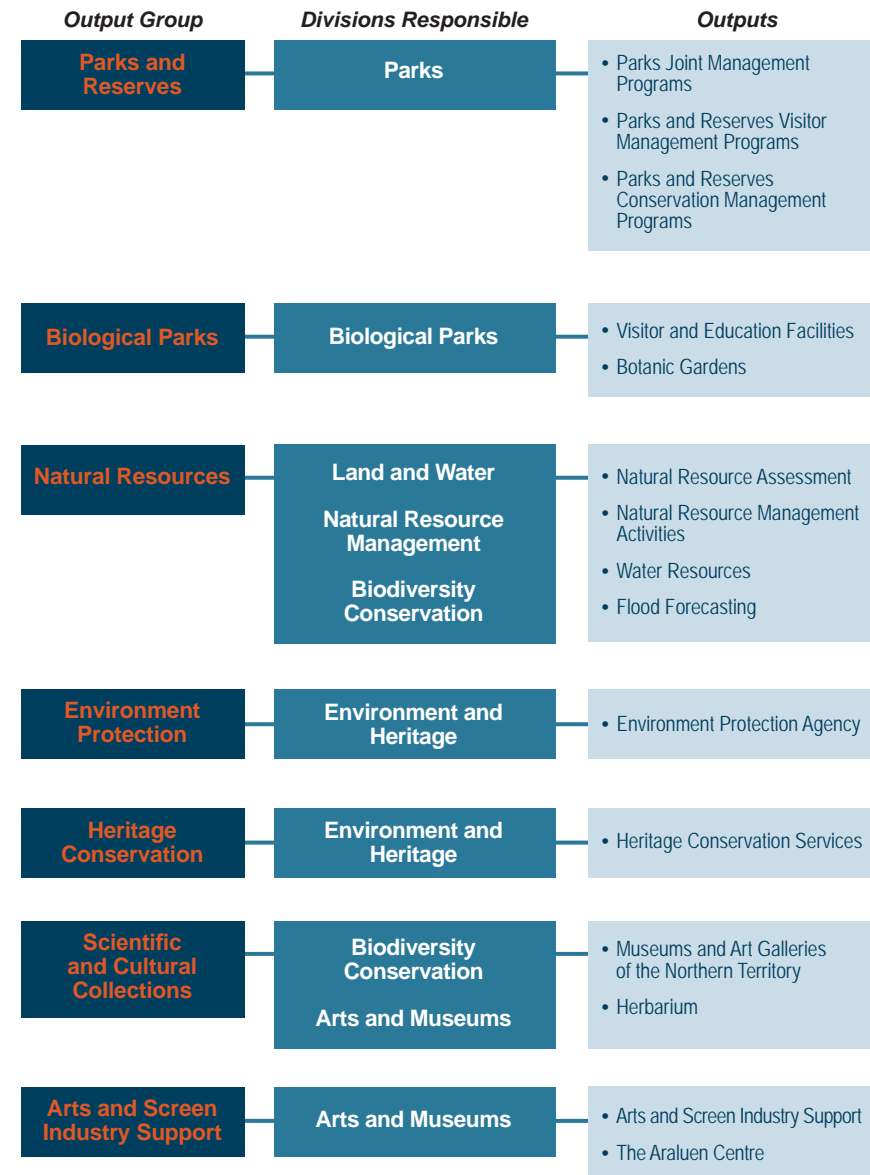
Operational Structure

The Agency's Operational Structure and Outputs (service delivery) contribute to the achievement of planned Strategic Outcomes. The Operational Structure includes Corporate Support Services that service all areas in the Agency. Detail of these Output Groups and the Outcomes they deliver are detailed on the following pages. The Agency's Organisational Structure is detailed on page 17.

Territory Wildlife Parks Operational Structure



Department Operational Structure



Strategic Outcomes

Output Group: Parks and Reserves

This Output Group primarily contributes to the following Strategic Outcomes:

Conservation for posterity the Territory's parks and reserves

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

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

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

Output Group: Biological Parks

This Output Group primarily contributes to the following Strategic Outcome:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Output Group: Natural Resources

This Output Group primarily contributes to the following Strategic Outcomes:

Protecting threatened wildlife

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

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

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

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

Output Group: Environment Protection

This Output Group primarily contributes to the following Strategic Outcomes:

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

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

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 and climate change to protect the Northern Territory's environment from detrimental effects.

Output Group: Heritage Conservation

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

Protecting heritage sites and objects

Conserving for posterity the Territory's historic buildings

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

Output Group: Scientific and Cultural Collections

This Output Group primarily contributes to the following Strategic Outcomes:

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

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

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

These collections include:

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

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

Output Group: Arts and Screen Industry Support

This Output Group primarily contributes to the following Strategic Outcomes:

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

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

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

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

Government Business Division: Territory Wildlife Parks

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

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

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

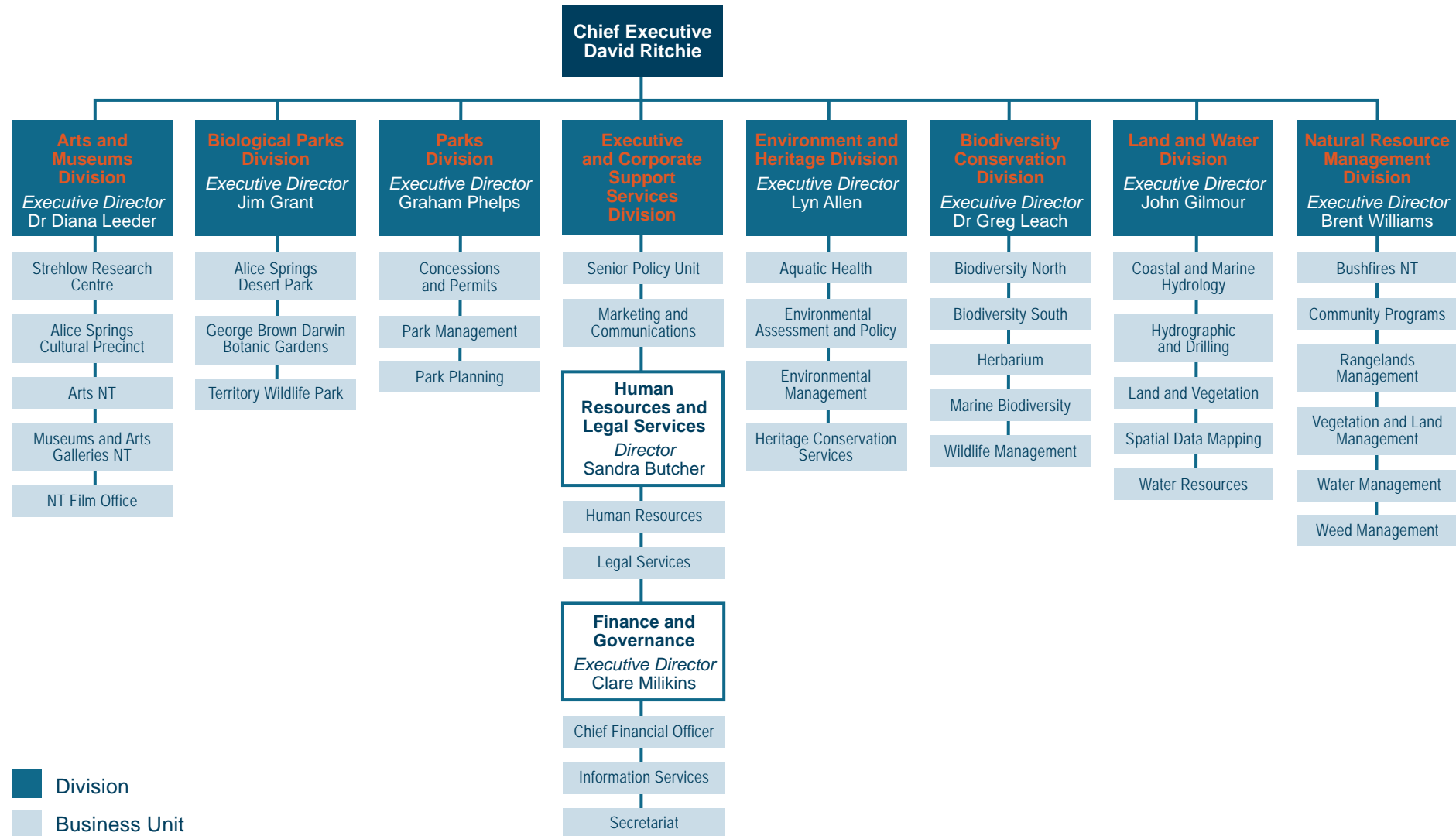
Creating a visitor experience that contributes to the growth and development of the Territory's Tourism industry.

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

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

Organisational Chart

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



Agency Achievements 2006-07

The Environment

Establishment of the Environment Protection Authority

Legislation was introduced to allow the establishment of an Environment Protection Authority. After consultation with the Territory community and stakeholders the interim EPA Board recommended an Environment Protection Authority with a highly strategic role. The Environment Protection Authority has the ability to scrutinise regulatory systems across government agencies, and assist both business and government to make informed decisions about ecologically sustainable development.

COOLmob Funding Increased

Provided a total funding of \$100 000 to the Cool Communities initiative 'COOLmob' to work with householders in Darwin and Alice Springs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through improved home energy and water efficiency, reduced car use and less waste going to landfill.

West Arnhem Fire Management Agreement

Finalised negotiation of the West Arnhem Fire Management Agreement with the Darwin Liquefied Natural Gas Plant to reduce emissions from savanna fires over the next 17 years leading to:

- an average reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 100 000 tonnes;
- positive biodiversity outcomes; and
- provision of employment and sustainable income to the Traditional Owners and land managers of the region.

Climate Change

Led the Northern Territory involvement in national climate change policy development including a State and Territory proposal for a National Emissions Trading Scheme, the Council of Australian Government's National Adaptation Framework, and agreement to a National Mandatory Public Greenhouse Gas Emissions reporting system for industry.

Presented a series of public information sessions in partnership with the Bureau of Meteorology aimed at raising public awareness of climate change and its potential impacts on the Northern Territory, and of the need to consider how Territorians respond to such impacts. Sessions were held in across the Territory in Darwin, Nhulunbuy, Tennant Creek, Katherine, and Alice Springs.

Heritage Sites and Objects

Heritage Register Additions

Addition of 12 places to the Northern Territory Heritage Register, which included:

- Flynn's Farm, Batchelor;
- Vestey's Tank at Bullock Point, Darwin;
- the Gurindji Wave Hill Walk Off Route, near Kalkarindji;
- Hunter House, Katherine;
- Eldo Rocket Shelters in the Barkly and Central Australia regions;
- Sue Wah Chin building on Cavenagh Street, Darwin; and
- the Waruwi Church on South Golburn Island.

Heritage Act

Completed the drafting instructions for the new *Heritage Act* and commenced drafting of the Bill to go before Parliament.

Repairs and Maintenance Program

Continued to implement the Northern Territory Government's 10 year \$10 million Repairs and Maintenance program for heritage assets, with significant conservation works delivered on:

- Government House, Darwin;
- The Connellan Hangar;
- Cape Don Lighthouse;
- Tennant Creek Telegraph Station; and
- Barrow Creek Telegraph Station.

Our Parks***Joint Management Programs***

Progressed joint management plans of Parks and Reserves with Traditional Owners and the Indigenous Land Use Agreements for the 27 Parks and Reserves that have been lodged with the Native Title Tribunal, including:

- Developed the Draft Joint Management Plan for Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve, Flora River Nature Park and Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve to the stage of seeking public comment.
- Started the Joint Management planning process with Traditional Owner estate groups spanning the entire West MacDonnell National Park.
- Continued to develop flexible employment and training arrangements through joint management, including formal traineeships, mature-age and school-based apprenticeships and job sharing arrangements to increase Indigenous employment outcomes.

These arrangements included 11 new trainee and permanent Indigenous ranger positions, 25 per cent of Indigenous field-based workforce in the Agency's Parks Division, in addition to the completion of 86 Flexible Employment Program projects across parks in the Southern region.

Controlling and Managing Key Weed Species

Completed the weed removal program Devil's Claw Festival, and made significant progress in the East Baines area of Gregory National Park, south west of Katherine, with another year of very low devil's claw weed numbers.

Controlled and managed key weed species in Owen Springs Reserve, south west of Alice Springs, preventing the spread of Bathurst burr, rubber bush, white cedar and Mexican poppy.

Prepared weed reports and action plans to implement at Parks west of Alice Springs including Watarrka National Park, Finke Gorge National Park, Simpson's Gap and Owen Springs Reserve, with input from Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers at Watarrka National Park.

Mapped gamba grass west of the visitor road in Charles Darwin National Park and sprayed with herbicide.

Sprayed and removed the poinciana regrowth at Tree Point Conservation Area, south east of Darwin, over a distance of 30 metres along the entrance road with natural vegetation replacing the poinciana.

Also commenced the control of the Mossman River grass by reducing its spread on the dunes along the Casuarina Coastal Reserve, Darwin, and progressed control of the weed parkinsonia within Keep River National Park through co-operative arrangements with neighbours and communities within the Park.

Territory Wildlife Park Interpretation Upgrade

Completed stage three of an interpretation upgrade as part of the transition from a wildlife park to a habitat based park (BioPark) which included upgrading exhibits, closing the Arthropods and Reptiles display, upgrading the main station with thematic panels, plasma screen, animal exhibits and developing a new orientation map.

Northern Territory Brolga Awards

Awarded two Northern Territory Brolga Awards for Tourism Excellence at the Alice Springs Desert Park: Major Tourist Attraction and Ecotourism. The Alice Springs Desert Park was also re-accredited with Advanced Ecotourism Accreditation.

Window on the Wetlands

Developed new cultural interpretation at Window on the Wetlands, in partnership with Limilngan-Wulna people, to increase visitor appreciation of the spiritual significance of the site.

World Heritage Listing of the West MacDonnell Ranges

Engaged renowned expert in World Heritage nominations Dr Geoff Mosley to research the World Heritage values of the West MacDonnell National Park, near Alice Springs, and provide a report in 2007-08 on his assessment of the values, both natural and cultural. This report will aid in progressing the nomination for World Heritage Listing of the West MacDonnell Ranges.

Palm Valley Campground Upgrade

Commenced the \$85 000 Palm Valley (Finke Gorge) campground upgrade, near Alice Springs, which involved a re-designed layout, installation of barbecues, shade, concreting and gas reticulation.

Water***Living Rivers Program***

The Living Rivers Program focuses on establishing new institutional arrangements for community involvement and decision-making through the Daly River Management Advisory Committee (DRMAC) and the proposed Living Rivers Ministerial Council. The first priorities included determining appropriate adaptive management processes for water allocation and land clearing and scientific/engineering studies to better understand surface/groundwater interactions.

Flood Forecasting

Installed a new rainfall station in the Daly River catchment and upgraded flood forecasting telemetry instrumentation for two existing stations in the Alice Springs Todd River catchment.

Bore Metering

Commenced rural Darwin and Daly region bore metering program, with 200 landholders registered to receive free bore meters. Once installed, rural Darwin water usage will be used to complete a Darwin rural area Water Allocation Plan.

Draft Alice Springs Water Resource Strategy

Completed the Draft Alice Springs Water Resource Strategy, which detailed there is sufficient groundwater reserves in the region, however the resource needs to be used wisely and water conservation education implemented in the region.

Drilling Programs

Completed investigative drilling and bore testing for water supply at numerous locations across the Territory including:

Bulman;
Channel Point;
Daly River;
Darwin River;
East Howard;
Lambells Lagoon;
Mataranka;
Middle Point;
Mountain Valley;
Orange Creek;
Ti Tree; and
Undoolya.

Katherine Water Advisory Committee

Aided the formation of the [Katherine Water Advisory Committee](#), a sub-committee of the [Daly River Management Advisory Committee](#), which is responsible for providing advice to the Northern Territory Government on the production of a water allocation plan for the region.

Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation

Rediscovery of Endangered Butterfly

Rediscovered the endangered butterfly, the Desert Sand Skipper after it had disappeared for 35 years in Central Australia, and commenced a monitoring program for its population.

Threatened Species List

Listed 177 of the Northern Territory's plants and animals as 'threatened' after a comprehensive re-assessment and formal gazettal of the conservation status of all the Territory's flora and fauna through expert analysis by Agency scientists and public consultation.

Daly Region Biodiversity Study

Commenced a three year program in the Daly region to provide informed biodiversity advice to government and landholders as a mechanism to achieve a balance between conservation and development. Assessment commenced at 150 sites in the region, in collaboration with landholders on:

- biodiversity values of intact forest;
- regenerating forest;
- forest isolates; and
- cleared lands for all terrestrial vertebrate species and invertebrate groups.

West MacDonnell National Park Assessment

Completed an assessment of the biodiversity values of the West MacDonnell Ranges, within the West MacDonnell National Park, to highlight the significance of biodiversity of the region. This data will be used for the proposed nomination of World Heritage Listing status of the National Park.

Arts and Culture

Building Strong Arts Businesses

Completed an external review of *Building Strong Arts Business (BSAB)*, an ongoing strategy that focuses on Northern Territory Government programs and services that grow and strengthen the Territory's Indigenous arts sector. This led to the development of a stage two BSAB Plan of Action as a whole of Government strategy with bi-annual progress reports to Cabinet.

Declan Aputimi/J Bird Commemorative Public Art Fellowship

Offered the \$20 000 inaugural Declan Aputimi/J Bird commemorative Public Art Fellowship to support professional development opportunities for contemporary artists in public art practice. In 2006-07 the fellowship was awarded to Alice Springs artist Pip McManus whose works are located in and around Alice Springs and Darwin.

Film Making Support

Provided a \$200 000 grant to Baz Luhrman film *Australia*, which was partly filmed in Darwin. Also provided support for the feature film *Ten Canoes*, shot in Arnhem Land, and won Australian Film Institute and Inside Film Awards.

Arts Grants Funding

Distributed \$6.2 million in government arts grants funding to 284 organisations/people.

Land and Weed Management

NRETA Maps

Launched NRETA Maps, a Northern Territory specific website mapping application that details the natural and cultural resource data and information held by the Agency; such as groundwater, soils, land units and native vegetation.

Cabomba Eradication

Continued the containment and eradication program for the aquatic Cabomba weed in the lower Darwin River with limited number of seeding and juvenile plants being found, indicating ongoing techniques and strategies are successful.

Weed Management Plans

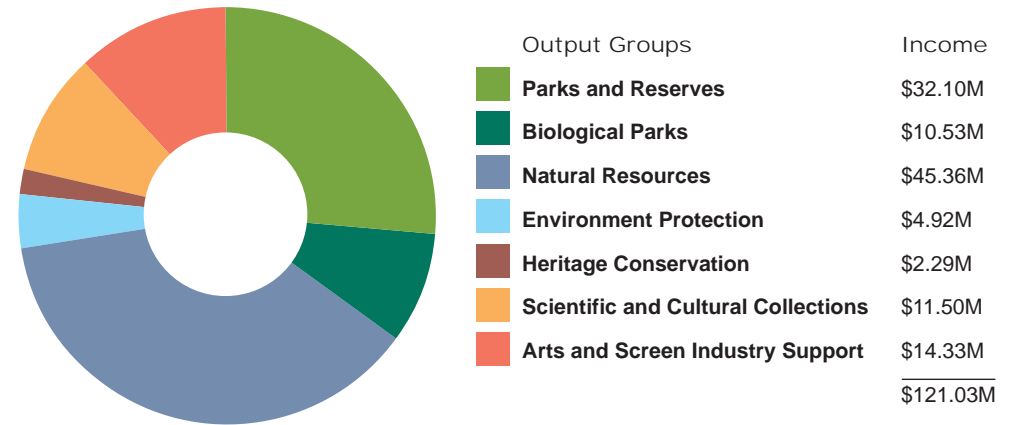
Developed Draft Northern Territory Weed Management Plans for bellyache bush, physic nut, parkinsonia, mimosa and athel pine.

Income and Expenditure at a Glance

Income by Output Group – Department

The total operating revenue for the Department was \$121.03 million. The Department receives its principal source of revenue (80 per cent or \$97.3 million) from the Northern Territory Government as output appropriation. The balance is made up of grants and subsidies received from the Australian Government and other external sources for specific purposes, income received from the sale of goods and services, and notional revenue to recognise service charges of the Department of Corporate and Information Services. Output appropriation is allocated to Output Groups on a budgeted 'breakeven' basis after allowing for depreciation.

Income by Output Group is presented graphically at right.

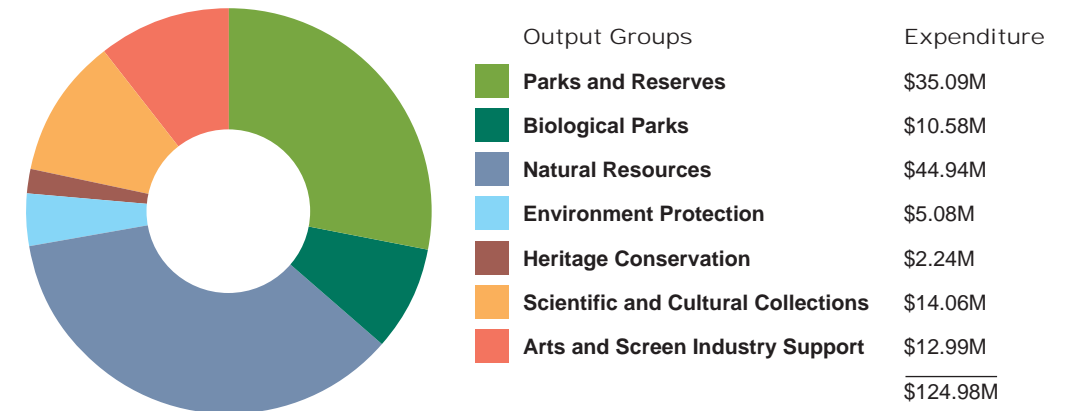


Expenditure by Output Group – Department

The operating expenses for the Department were \$124.98 million. Employee expenses make up 40 per cent of the Department's expenses and totalled \$49.7 million. Administrative expenses totalled \$52.3 million and comprised of purchase of goods and services, repairs and maintenance, depreciation and amortisation, and services from the Northern Territory Department of Corporate and Information Services rendered free of charge. The Department paid out \$22.2 million in grants and subsidies including a Community Service Obligation payment of \$7.8 million to the Territory Wildlife Parks Government Business Division.

Expenditure by Output Group is presented graphically at right.

Detailed Operating Statements for the Department can be found in the Financial Statements section of this report at page 160.



Revenue – Territory Wildlife Parks – Government Business Division

The Territory Wildlife Parks’ total operating revenue for 2006-07 was \$10.42 million.

The principal source of income for the Parks is \$7.8 million received as a Community Service Obligation payment from the Department for the performance of non-commercial functions including tourism industry support, biodiversity, education and botanical gardens management at the Alice Springs Desert Park.

The Parks’ commercial income includes admission fees to the Parks, sales of goods, interest and income for businesses trading within the Parks (including Window on the Wetlands).

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



Government Business Division		Revenue
■	Territory Wildlife Park	\$5.01M
■	Alice Springs Desert Park	\$5.41M
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		\$10.42M

Expenditure – Territory Wildlife Parks – Government Business Division

Territory Wildlife Parks’ total operating expenses totalled \$12.12 million.

Employee expenses make up 48 per cent of the Parks’ expenses and totalled \$5.8 million. Expenses from ordinary activities of \$4.9 million comprised of purchases of goods and services, repairs and maintenance, property management, and services from the Northern Territory Department of Corporate and Information Services rendered free of charge. Depreciation and amortisation expenses for the year totalled \$1.5 million.

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

Detailed Operating Statements for the Territory Wildlife Parks can be found in the Financial Statements section of this report on page 195.



Government Business Division		Expenditure
■	Territory Wildlife Park	\$6.33M
■	Alice Springs Desert Park	\$5.79M
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		\$12.12M

Regional Highlights 2006-07



Highlights 2006-07: East Arnhem Region

Environment Protection – Environment Protection Agency Program

- Undertook environmental compliance of Alcan Gove.
- Presented public information sessions in partnership with the Bureau of Meteorology, aimed at raising public awareness of climate change and its potential impacts on the Northern Territory.

Natural Resources – Natural Resource Assessment

- Coordinated a series of ecological studies on sea turtle research in Indigenous communities on Groote Eylandt.

Parks – Parks Joint Management Programs

- Employed five Traditional Owners, one mature-aged apprentice and one school-aged apprentice, in natural resource management in the Arnhem Wetlands region.

Scientific and Cultural Collections - Herbarium

- Enhanced the knowledge of the Northern Territory flora through collecting new data for assessment of data deficient plant species around Gove.

Future Priorities 2007-08: East Arnhem Region

Arts and Screen Industry Support – Arts and Screen Sector

- Develop a Northern Territory Government funding policy for Arts and Cultural Centres and Regional Museums.

Natural Resources – Natural Resource Assessment

- Undertake a pilot marine biodiversity survey and assessment of the coastal and marine ecosystems of North East Arnhem Land, as part of the Northern Territory Marine Biodiversity Mapping and Survey Program.
- Establish a systematic monitoring and research program for prioritised environments and species, such as the Sea Turtle Climate Change project, to be conducted across Northern Australia.

Natural Resources – Natural Resource Management Activities

- Build capacity for fire management in Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory.

Parks and Reserves – Parks Joint Management Programs

- Progress the development of Park joint management plans across all regions.



Highlights 2006-07: Katherine Region

Environment Protection – Environment Protection Agency Program

- Completed six environmental assessments in the Katherine region including McArthur River Mine Open Cut Project, Victoria Highway Upgrading to Improve Flooding Immunity, Frances Creek Iron Ore Mine and Mount Porter Gold Project.
- Issued an environmental approval for the Blacktip Onshore Gas Plant under the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act*.
- Presented public information sessions in partnership with the Bureau of Meteorology, aimed at raising public awareness of climate change and its potential impacts on the Northern Territory.

Heritage Conservation Services – Heritage Conservation

- Addition of *Gurindji Wave Hill Walk Off Route* near Kalkarindji and *Frew Ponds Overland Telegraph Line Memorial Reserve* near Dunmarra to the Northern Territory Heritage Register.

Natural Resources – Natural Resource Assessment

- Coordinated a series of ecological studies on sea turtle research in Indigenous communities at Borroloola.
- Commenced a three year program in the Daly region to provide informed biodiversity advice to government and landholders as a mechanism to achieve a balance between conservation and development. Assessment commenced at 150 sites in the region, in collaboration with landholders on:
 - biodiversity values of intact forest;
 - regenerating forest;
 - forest isolates; and

- cleared lands for all terrestrial vertebrate species and invertebrate groups.

Natural Resources – Water Resources

- Aided the formation of the Katherine Water Advisory Committee, a sub-committee of the Daly River Management Advisory Committee, which is responsible for providing advice to the Northern Territory Government on the production of a Water Allocation Plan for the region.
- Commenced a Daly region bore monitoring program, with landholders registering to receive free bore meters. Once installed, water usage data will be used to better understand the area's groundwater supply.
- Completed evaluation and investigative drilling of potential aquifers to supply the Ngukurr community for the Power and Water Corporation.

Parks – Parks and Reserves Visitor Management Programs

- Completed the \$20 000 upgrade of hot water services to the ablution block in Elsey National Park's Jalmurark (12 Mile Campground).
- Completed a viewing platform and opened the Nganalam Art Site within Keep River National Park for the public.

Parks – Parks Conservation Management Programs

- Erected 11 kilometres of fencing along the south eastern boundary of Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park to assist in feral animal control.
- Established a new Parks and Wildlife office for the Gulf region located at Mataranka which provides rangers with more timely access to land management areas.

- Conducted a biodiversity survey within the Spring Creek area, south of Borrooloola, which revealed a high success in trapping a significant number of animals.
- Completed the Devil's Claw Festival and made significant progress in the East Baines area of Gregory National Park, with another year of very low devil's claw weed numbers.
- Progressed control of parkinsonia weed within Keep River National Park, through cooperative arrangements with neighbours and communities within the park.

Parks – Parks Joint Management Programs

- Finalised the Summary of Management Intent for Flora River Nature Park.
- Commenced a participatory monitoring and evaluation program for Flora River Nature Park, in co-operation with Traditional Owners and facilitated by Charles Darwin University researchers. This is the first time these techniques have been used in Australia to assess the effectiveness of jointly managed conservation areas.

Future Priorities 2007-08: Katherine Region

Arts and Screen Industry Support – Arts and Screen Sector

- Finalise site and management options for stage one of the Katherine Regional Cultural Precinct to include the construction of a regional standard gallery and outdoor performance space following outcomes from a hydrology study currently being undertaken by the Agency.
- Develop a Northern Territory Government funding policy for Arts and Cultural Centres and Regional Museums.

Natural Resources – Natural Resource Assessment

- Ensure a Territory-wide approach to wildlife impact reporting, including formal agreements with Commonwealth agencies and Aboriginal communities.

Natural Resources – Natural Resource Management Activities

- Build capacity for fire management in Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory.

Natural Resources – Water Resources

- Design and implement a monitoring program to assess the performance of the Katherine-Tindal Water Allocation Plan.
- Amend the *Water Act* and the *Trade Measurement Act* to ensure Northern Territory non-urban water meters meet new Australian Standards and establish a non-urban metering implementation plan to meet National Water Initiative obligations.

Parks – Parks and Reserves Conservation Management Programs

- Implement weed management strategies and programs aimed at a long term removal of threats such as the control of devil's claw throughout the Gregory National Park, and reducing the spread of Noogoora burr within the East Baines catchment.
- Continue working with neighbouring landowners and Traditional Owners for fire, weed and feral animal management which includes finalisation of *Warnarrwarnarr-Barranyi (Borrooloola No.2) Land Claim* for Barranyi National Park and subsequent negotiations with Northern Land Council and Traditional Owners.

Parks and Reserves – Parks Joint Management Programs

- Progress the development of Park joint management plans in the region.



Highlights 2006-07: Barkly Region

Environment Protection – Environment Protection Agency Program

- Presented public information sessions in partnership with the Bureau of Meteorology, aimed at raising public awareness of climate change and its potential impacts on the Northern Territory.

Heritage Conservation Services – Heritage Conservation

- Continued to implement the Northern Territory Government's 10 year \$10 million Repairs and Maintenance program for Heritage Assets, with significant conservation works delivered on Tennant Creek Telegraph Station.
- Addition of Banka Banka Mudbrick Homestead near Tennant Creek and Eldo Rocket Shelters in the Barkly region to the Northern Territory Heritage Register.

Natural Resources – Natural Resource Management Activities

- Provided counter disaster relief for hazard response, through Busfires NT, at the Tennant Creek cyanide spill by providing communications support, fire protection and assistance with staffing the Emergency Operations Centre.

Parks and Reserves – Park Joint Management Programs

- Provided additional employment opportunities for Indigenous community-based ranger groups through fee for service contracts on parks which has resulted in a contract being let with Julalikari Rangers at Tennant Creek.
- Developed Joint Management Plans for the Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve to the stage of gaining final clearance from Traditional Owners prior to seeking broader public comment.

Future Priorities 2007-08: Barkly Region

Arts and Screen Industry Support – Arts and Screen Sector

- Develop a Northern Territory Government funding policy for Arts and Cultural Centres and Regional Museums.

Natural Resources – Natural Resource Assessment

- Ensure a Territory-wide approach to wildlife impact reporting, including formal agreements with Commonwealth agencies and Aboriginal communities.

Natural Resources – Natural Resource Management Activities

- Build capacity for fire management in Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory.

Parks and Reserves– Parks Joint Management Programs

- Progress the development of Park joint management plans in the region.



Highlights 2006-07: Alice Springs Region

Arts and Screen Industry Support – The Araluen Centre

- Developed a joint tour in association with Great Southern Rail and Cobb and Co. which delivers passengers from the Ghan Rail service to the Alice Springs Cultural Precinct and the Alice Springs Desert Park four times a week.

- Presented the annual Desert Mob art exhibition and associated events, achieving an increased financial return to participating art centres by \$23 000.

Biological Parks – Visitor and Education Facilities

- Awarded two Northern Territory Brolga Awards for Tourism Excellence at the Alice Springs Desert Park for Major Tourist Attraction and Ecotourism. Also re-accredited with Advanced Ecotourism Accreditation.
- Developed the Red Centre Way Visitor Experience Strategy with the Northern Territory Government Department of the Chief Minister, Department of Planning and Infrastructure and Tourism NT.

Government Business Division – Territory Wildlife Parks – Alice Springs Desert Park

- Continued to develop the Aboriginal Employment and Training Program with eight Indigenous people employed as apprentices or trainees in horticulture, zoo keeping and tour guiding.

Environment Protection – Environment Protection Agency Program

- Provided funding of \$50 000 to COOLmob, Alice Springs operation, for home energy and water audit services and public education.

- Presented public information sessions in partnership with the Bureau of Meteorology, aimed at raising public awareness of climate change and its potential impacts on the Northern Territory.

Natural Resources – Natural Resource Assessment

- Rediscovered the endangered butterfly, the desert sand skipper, after it had disappeared for 35 years in Central Australia, and commenced a monitoring program for its population.

Natural Resources – Water Resources

- Upgraded instrumentation throughout the Southern Region including all the flood forecasting sites for Alice Springs Township, with nine sites now directly reporting data to the internet.
- Completed the Draft Alice Springs Water Resource Strategy, which detailed there is sufficient groundwater reserves in the region for generations to come.

Natural Resources

- Upgraded telemetry instrumentation for two existing stations in the Alice Springs Todd River catchment.

Parks – Parks and Reserves Conservation Management Programs

- Carried out standard fauna surveys in Fish Hole area (Ellery), and at Finke Gorge National Park to provide baseline data for the specific vegetation units and develop species records.
- Controlled and managed key weed species in Owen Springs Reserve, preventing the spread of Bathurst burr, rubber bush, white cedar and Mexican poppy.

Parks – Parks and Reserves Visitor Management Programs

- Commenced the \$85 000 Palm Valley (Finke Gorge) campground upgrade which involved a re-designed layout, installation of barbecues, shade, concreting and gas reticulation.

- Constructed an amphitheatre and new shelter at the Redbank Gorge day use area and commenced building a new toilet block at Ellery Creek Big Hole.

Parks – Parks Joint Management Programs

- Developed the draft Joint Management Plan for Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve to the stage of readiness for seeking public comment.

Future Priorities 2007-08: Alice Springs Region

Arts and Screen Industry Support – Arts and Screen Sector

- Plan and implement the biennial national Regional Arts Conference ‘Art at the Heart’ in Alice Springs in October 2008.

Arts and Screen Industry Support – The Araluen Centre

- Develop a new permanent exhibition at the Araluen Art Centre documenting and analysing the history and development of Indigenous art in Central Australia by language group regions, as part of the *Moving Alice Ahead* initiative to grow the Indigenous art sector.
- Develop a Master Plan for development at the site over the next 10 years.

Biological Parks – Visitor and Education Facilities

- Complete the Master Planning process for the Alice Springs Desert Park and develop an integrated visitor experience plan.

Government Business Division – Territory Wildlife Parks - Alice Springs Desert Park

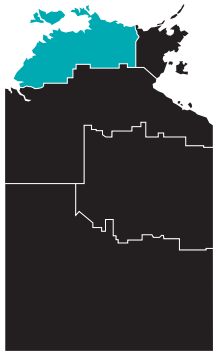
- Commence guided night activities and guided morning bird walks to diversify the experiences available to visitors and increase the use of the Park outside standard opening hours.

Natural Resources – Natural Resource Management Activities

- Build capacity for fire management in Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory.

Parks and Reserves – Parks and Reserves Visitor Management Programs

- Complete the Palm Valley (Finke Gorge) campground upgrade works that includes barbecues, shelter, wash up facilities and information signage.
- Finish construction of amphitheatre at Ormiston Gorge, the Ellery Creek Big Hole toilet block and associated landscaping.



Highlights 2006-07: Darwin Region

Arts and Screen Industry Support – Arts and Screen Sector

- Provided \$200 000 grant to Bazmark film *Australia*, reconvened the Inter Agency Film Taskforce to assist filmmakers with logistical support including images, talent information, location scouts, and logistical support of other Northern Territory Government Agencies to secure filming in Darwin.

- Offered the \$20 000 inaugural Declan Apuatimi/J Bird commemorative Public Art Fellowship to support professional development opportunities for contemporary artists in public art practice.

Biological Parks – Botanic Gardens

- Completed phase one of the redevelopment of the Children's Garden to attract more families to the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.

Biological Parks – Visitor and Education Facilities

- Developed new cultural interpretation at Window on the Wetlands, in partnership with Limilngan-Wulna people, to increase visitor appreciation of the spiritual significance of the site.
- Increased visitor numbers with a 6.5 per cent increase since last financial year, which is the most significant increase in visitor numbers in the past ten years.

Environment Protection – Environment Protection Agency Program

- Commenced a three year program to develop a [Water Quality Protection Plan](#) for Darwin Harbour.

- Presented public information sessions in partnership with the Bureau of Meteorology, aimed at raising public awareness of climate change and its potential impacts on the Northern Territory.
- Provided funding of \$50 000 to COOLmob, Darwin operation, for home energy and water audit services and public education.

Government Business Division – Territory Wildlife Parks – Territory Wildlife Park

- Completed stage three of the interpretation upgrade at the Territory Wildlife Park as part of the transition from a wildlife park to a habitat based park (Biological Park), which included:
 - upgrading exhibits along the Monsoon Forest Walk to include mixed species exhibits;
 - closing the Arthropods and Reptiles display;
 - upgrading the Main Station with thematic photographic wall panels, large plasma screen and animal exhibits; and
 - developing a new orientation map to improve visitor navigation.

Natural Resources – Natural Resource Management Activities

- Negotiated and commenced the 17-year West Arnhem Fire Management Agreement between Conoco Phillips and the Northern Territory Government, which is the worlds first greenhouse gas offset project based on bushfire management where Traditional Owners are paid to reduce late dry season wildfires.

Natural Resources – Water Resources

- Commenced rural Darwin region bore monitoring program, with 200 landholders registered to receive free bore meters, which once installed, rural Darwin water usage data will be used to complete a Darwin Rural Area Water Allocation Plan.

Parks – Parks and Reserves Conservation Management Programs

- Completed an intensive feral animal program on the Mary River National Park (proposed).
- Undertook fire management programs within Litchfield National Park which involved continued high level of liaison with Bushfires NT, adjoining landowners and Traditional Owners resulting in a reduced number of wildfires in the Park.

Parks – Parks and Reserves Visitor Management Programs

- Developed management and campground facilities and completed stage one of the boat ramp development at Channel Point Coastal Reserve at a cost of \$700 000, and continued regular consultation with all stakeholders.

Scientific and Cultural Collections – Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory

- A total visitation of 240 650 people at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Bullocky Point. Increased attendance figures were a result of programming popular exhibitions such as the *Australia under Attack 1942–1943* and *National Treasures from Australia's Great Libraries* exhibitions, and strategic marketing initiatives.

Heritage Conservation – Heritage Conservation Services

- Undertook a research program with public participation on the shipwreck of the *Booya* in Darwin Harbour in order to map the wreck site and document associated marine life.

Future Priorities 2007-08: Darwin Region

Arts and Screen Industry Support – Arts and Screen Sector

- Progress the inclusion of major public art installations in the Darwin Waterfront Project.

Biological Parks – Botanic Gardens

- Complete phase two of the redevelopment of the Children's Garden and Geranium Street entrance at George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.
- Design the new visitors' centre to provide additional function space and display leadership in environmental design.

Biological Parks – Visitor and Education Facilities

- Handover day to day management of Window on the Wetlands to the Limilngan-Wulna Traditional Owners.

Environment Protection – Environment Protection Agency Program

- Further develop a Water Quality Protection Plan for Darwin Harbour and its catchment by developing water quality objectives, a model to predict the impact of nutrient pollution on water quality and finalise the draft Stormwater Strategy.

Natural Resources – Natural Resource Management Activities

- Continue the 17-year West Arnhem Fire Management Agreement with project partners to abate greenhouse gas emissions from savanna burning in West Arnhem Land.

Scientific and Cultural Collections – Herbarium

- Publish volume one of the landmark plant reference *The Flora of the Darwin Region*.

Scientific and Cultural Collections – Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory

- Ensure the scoping study for the proposed World War II Defence of Darwin Museum meets Northern Territory Government and community needs and interests.
- Secure additional sponsors to ensure the future viability of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award.

Grants Program

The Department distributed more than \$6 million worth of grants in 2006-07. The Department's grant recipients include art organisations, schools, natural resource management, biodiversity conservation and environment community groups.

The following list contains all grants the Department currently administers.

For more information on these programs go to www.nt.gov.au/nreta/grants

Arts Grants Program	Who can apply	Funding limit	Frequency
Quick Response Scheme offers up to \$1500 to support professional development opportunities and/or arts projects that cannot be applied to within the project rounds due to their time critical nature	Individuals, groups, organisations	Up to \$1500	All year round
Arts Development is to support projects across all art forms for the research, development or creation of new work or community cultural development projects	Individuals, groups, organisations	Up to \$15 000	Twice yearly
Presentation and Promotion is for the support of projects which either present, exhibit, distribute or promote Northern Territory arts practice	Individuals, groups, organisations	Up to \$15 000	Twice yearly
Regional Arts Fund - New Arts Communities aims to support community based arts projects in any art form from first time or previously unfunded applicants to get an arts project off the ground	Groups, organisations	Up to \$5000	Twice yearly
Regional Arts Fund - Artist to Artist Support is for structured relationships between artists/arts workers for a program of professional development	Individuals	Up to \$10 000	Twice yearly
Regional Arts Fund - Networks and Partnerships is for the support of arts related initiatives that either develop partnerships; or encourage the development and maintenance of cultural networks and cooperative relationships	Individuals, groups, organisations	Up to \$15 000	Twice yearly
Regional Arts Fund - Skills Development is for the support of arts initiatives that aim to foster skills, knowledge and experience of the participants and build community capacity	Groups, organisations	Up to \$15 000	Twice yearly
Remote Festivals Fund is for the support of remote community festivals, to establish and/or develop artistic programming and initiatives	Groups, organisations	Up to \$15 000	Yearly
Public Art is for support towards the development and creation of artistic work in public places	Individuals, groups, organisations, business/companies	Up to \$150 000	Yearly
Declan Apuatimi/J Bird Public Art Fellowship supports professional development opportunities for contemporary artists to achieve innovation and excellence in public art practice	Practicing professional NT artists	Up to \$20 000	Yearly
Arts Scholarship offers places for full time post secondary arts training in either an Undergraduate Degree, Diploma, or Certificate level III (3) or IV (4)	Individuals	\$3500/yr for 3 yrs \$700/yr for 2 yrs \$500 for 1 year	Yearly

Arts Grants Program	Who can apply	Funding limit	Frequency
Key Arts Organisations supports organisations in contributing to the Northern Territory's cultural, social and economic development	Organisations	N/A	Twice yearly
Artists in Schools (AiS) is a partnership between the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (NRETA) and the Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET)	Schools	Up to \$5000	Yearly
NT Film Grants Program	Who can apply	Funding limit	Frequency
Screen Grants April Round Project Funding is aimed at professional or emerging screen industry practitioners	Individuals, organisations	N/A	Yearly
Industry and Screen Culture Development supports industry and cultural development in the Northern Territory	Individuals, organisations	N/A	Yearly
Travel Grants assists with the cost of attending key training, professional development, conferences events or festivals	Individuals, organisations	N/A	Yearly
NT Heritage Grant Program	Who can apply	Funding limit	Frequency
NT Heritage Grant Program supports organisations who are working on a project relating to a significant heritage site in the Northern Territory	Individuals, organisations	\$200 000	Yearly
Regional Museums Grant Support Program	Who can apply	Funding limit	Frequency
Regional Museums Grant Support Program is for the support of projects that demonstrate best museum practice through development of exhibits and displays, collection management policy, interpretation plans, strategic plan or disaster preparedness plan. Accessioning and cataloguing of museum collections, including employment of contract curatorial staff or specialist services. Storage and conservation of collections. Training and professional development. Outreach work with the local community	Community based and volunteer run regional museums and keeping places in the Northern Territory	N/A	Yearly

EnvironmentNT Grants Program	Who can apply	Funding limit	Frequency
Re-thinking Energy-in-Schools provides assistance for schools wishing to purchase and install renewable energy equipment and to deliver education programs that demonstrate renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency issues	All NT Schools	Up to \$5000 depending on school location	Yearly
Re-thinking Waste-in-Schools Challenge establishes an innovative and fun 'inter-school challenge approach' to make sustainability programs such as recycling, energy and water efficiency and litter abatement projects in schools more effective and interesting	All NT Schools	Up to \$2000	Yearly
School Environmental Education Projects for other environmental education activities and school based projects	All NT Schools	Up to \$2000	Yearly
Energy Efficiency supports projects that will reduce and/or promote efficient energy consumption (and greenhouse gas emissions) and can be used as demonstration models able to be implemented in similar organisations across the Territory	Community groups, industry and local government	Usually up to \$10 000	Yearly
Re-thinking Waste supports projects that will develop the resource recovery (recycling) industry in the Territory and can be used as demonstration models able to be implemented in other communities across the Territory	Community groups, industry and local government	Usually up to \$10 000	Yearly
Water Conservation supports projects that will improve water management in the Territory and can be used as demonstration models for wider application in the Territory	Community groups, industry and local government	Usually up to \$10 000	Yearly
Environmental Management / Stewardship develops and documents environmental management projects that can be used to demonstrate best practice approaches in the Territory	Community groups, industry and local government	Usually up to \$10 000	Yearly
Environmental Education / Capacity Building supports projects that deliver awareness-raising, skill building and training activities to the wider NT community	Community groups, industry and local government	Usually up to \$10 000	Yearly
Sustainable Technology and Resource Efficiency supports projects that will promote the uptake of sustainable technology in the Territory	Community groups, industry and local government	Usually up to \$10 000	Yearly
Operational Grants support key non-profit organisations delivering environmental services to the community	Non-profit organisations	Up to \$80 000 (3 yearly terms)	Yearly

Response to Whole of Government Frameworks

Building Safer Communities – Whole of Government Initiative

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

In 2006-07 the Agency made a number of contributions toward achieving the goals of the Building Safer Communities framework.

Tackling Substance Abuse

- The Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory continued the practice of no alcohol service and a safe and secure presentation ceremony for the 23rd Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award.
- Parks and Wildlife Rangers 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 and Wildlife and the Jawoyn Traditional Owners that drinking in particular tourist areas within the Park is not permitted.

Partners in Crime Prevention

- The Agency supported key organisations delivering some specific diversionary and many general youth arts programs including Barkly and Katherine Regional Arts, Corrugated Iron and Incite Youth Arts.
- Through the competitive arts project grants rounds, the Agency provided funding for specific diversionary arts projects including Bush Bands bash, Hip Hop program through Mount Theo Substance Abuse Aboriginal Corporation and Palumpa Health Week Music Camp.

- Parks and Wildlife Rangers conducted twice-daily patrols of the Casuarina Coastal Reserve, Darwin (from Rapid Creek to Buffalo Creek), contacting the police if or when they witnessed illegal or antisocial behaviour.
- Carpark lighting was installed at the Alice Springs Desert Park and Territory Wildlife Park to enhance visitor safety.
- Additional building security was provided to amenities areas at the Agency's Darwin Plaza building.

Children and Young People

- Araluen Arts Centre provided opportunities for young people to engage with the visual and performing arts by programming exhibitions and events, such as the Advocate Art Award and local school productions.
- Alice Springs Desert Park developed an 'Adopt-a-School' partnership with Yipirinya School to engage young local Indigenous students to experience career options, develop employability skills and build self esteem.

How to Contact Us

For general enquiries and correspondence:

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts

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PO Box 496, Palmerston, NT 0831

Telephone: 08 8999 5511
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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
asdp@nt.gov.au

For a full listing of the Agency's contact details go to page 235.

Corporate Governance



Corporate Governance Snapshot

In 2006-07:

- The Agency moved its focus from establishing its structures as a new Agency to specifically building leadership capability.
- The Agency's management team redefined itself as the Executive Leadership Group (ELG). The ELG is the Agency's principal planning and decision making body and met 13 times throughout the year in both Darwin and Alice Springs.
- The Executive Leadership Group:
 - established the Agency's *Strategic Objectives 2007-2014* through whole of Agency consultation;
 - planned and ran Culture Sensing Workshops with approximately 200 employees taking part;
 - participated in the Leadership Development Program which was a five day live-in program that focused on capability building; and
 - initiated a Directors In-service forum which more than 50 employees attended. This In-Service will be held biannually.
- The Working Well Together (Code of Conduct and Values) training program was held in Darwin, Palmerston, Berry Spring, Katherine and Alice Springs with a total of 79 employees participating. The program is designed to enhance employee's knowledge of ethical business practices and to provide practical strategies for dealing with situations that arise at work.
- A complaints handling system was developed and included a Policy, Procedure, Flowchart and a sample Complaint Form.
- A Procurement Unit was established and made considerable progress in assisting the Agency refine and improve its procurement practices.
- An Audit Committee was established to implement internal audit processes and provide a level of assurance about the governance framework and internal control practices of the Agency.
- A series of risk assessment practices and reviews of Agency operations was conducted.
- Several external audits were performed by the Auditor-General's Office.
- The Agency had the following sub-committees which reported to the Executive Leadership Group and provided an increased focus on the critical areas of the Agency's activities:
 - Information Management Committee; and
 - Publications Committee.
- The Agency undertook a range of activities to reduce the environmental impact of its operations including:
 - reducing energy usage;
 - reducing transport emissions; and
 - promoting and developing greenhouse action across the Northern Territory Government
- The Agency was responsible for administering 43 pieces of legislation - 22 Acts and 21 pieces of subordinate legislation. During the period the Agency commenced four legal proceedings of alleged breaches of Acts. Two of these proceedings have resulted in convictions, two proceedings remained outstanding at 30 June 2007. An additional three legal proceedings were ongoing from 2005-06 and were finalised in 2006-07 with all three resulting in convictions.
- The Internet and Intranet, Chief Executive's Newsletter, Media Release Distribution, Friday Round Up and Secretariat ensured effective internal and external communication throughout the year;
- The Agency responded to two new formal information requests which were completed within the statutory timeframe. Both requests were for government information and no application was refused. One additional request was carried over from 2005-06, however this was subsequently withdrawn by the applicant.

Framework

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

Key elements of this framework are the Agency's:

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

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

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

2006-07 has seen the Agency move its focus from establishing its structures as a new Agency to specifically building leadership capability; recognising the significant impact leadership behaviours and actions have on organisational performance.

* 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

Leadership

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

Accountability

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

Integrity

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

Transparency

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

Efficiency

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

Stewardship

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

Management Environment

Decision Making

Recognising the importance of leadership to governments, the Agency's management team has redefined itself as the Executive Leadership Group (ELG). The Chief Executive and the ELG have the primary responsibility for providing strategic leadership and systems development for the Agency.

The ELG 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 the Finance and Governance Division. Other Agency officers attend ELG meetings as required to make presentations to the group.

The ELG is the Agency's principal planning and decision making body and met 13 times during 2006-07 in both Darwin and Alice Springs.

The ELG definitively took up the responsibilities of leadership during 2006-07, recognising the impact they as a group and individual members have on the Agency's culture through their actions and behaviours and the nature of the work they do.

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 27 years in the public sector, primarily managing cultural, heritage, land and natural resources. For 16 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.

Dr Diana Leeder – Executive Director Arts and Museums

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

Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Diana is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Darwin Entertainment Centre.

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.

Graham Phelps – Executive Director Parks

Graham has worked in conservation for 20 years, initially as a wildlife veterinarian and later as curator and manager of the Alice Springs Desert Park for nine years from 1996. His work at the Alice Springs Desert Park linking environmental education and tourism with Indigenous employment and development led him to Groote Eylandt where he was the Northern Territory Government's Regional Coordinator for two years. He commenced his current position in November 2006.

Lyn Allen – Executive Director Environment and Heritage

Lyn has held this position since August 2004. Lyn has wide experience working at the Territory, national and international levels. Before returning to the Northern Territory in 2004, she was Director Environment and Resource Policy in the Queensland Government Department of the Premier and Cabinet. She has also worked for a number of Territory organisations including the Menzies School of Health Research, Katherine Regional Legal Aid Service, Greening Australia NT and the Environment Centre NT.

Lyn has an Honours degree in Environmental Studies, a Masters of Business Administration, and is a Graduate Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

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 21 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 Northern Territory, Greg spent a number of years in Papua New

Guinea, at the National Botanic Gardens in Lae and at the University of Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby. 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.

John Gilmour – Executive Director Land and Water

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

noise, waste and environmental assessment. In this capacity he was the Queensland representative on the Standing Committee of the Australian Council for Environment for over 15 years. John has qualifications in Engineering, and post graduate qualifications in Business Administration and Environmental Engineering.

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 13 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.

Clare Milikins – Executive Director Finance and Governance

Clare graduated from the University of Western Australia with a Bachelor of Commerce in 1988 and became a Certified Practising Accountant in 1994. Clare's extensive experience within the Northern Territory Government has seen her hold roles such as Director Financial Reporting and Budget Management with Treasury and Director Commercialisation Policy with the Department of Transport and Works. Clare commenced with the Agency in 2005 as Chief Financial Officer. Clare was appointed Executive Director

Finance and Governance in May 2006 and is responsible for Financial Services, Asset Management, Secretariat, Information Services and Records Management within the Agency.

Sandra Butcher – Director Human Resources and Legal Services

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

Agency Culture

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

In 2006-07 the Executive Leadership Group (ELG) planned and ran Culture Sensing Workshops with employees across the Agency. These Workshops were facilitated by the Chief Executive and two alternating members of the ELG in Alice Springs, Darwin and Katherine.

The Workshops were designed to provide information about the current culture and beliefs within the Agency and were attended by a range of employees in age, experience and varied work units, with approximately 200 people taking part. It was clear from these workshops that several different cultures existed within the Agency, not all of which supported organisational success and good governance. This was not unexpected at this early stage in the Agency's existence as an organisation.

Leadership

The ELG recognised that leaders, through their behaviour and action, can have a fundamental impact on culture. Therefore the Agency's culture is above all a reflection of the behaviours and actions of the Agency's leaders in particular the ELG itself.

The Agency recognises that ultimately it is the acts or omissions of the people charged with leadership that determines whether governance objectives are achieved and this has been a primary focus in 2006-07.

Leadership Development Program

Leadership capability building commenced with the ELG, in the form of a structured leadership program in May 2007. This five-day live-in Leadership Development Program focused on capability building by providing understanding and tools for effective leadership. This program resulted in the incorporation of key values in the Agency's *Strategic Objectives 2007-14* and a defined change in focus of ELG meetings.

Leadership capability continues to be recognised as a critical part of effective governance by the Agency. The ELG is in the process of redeveloping the May program to deliver similar undertakings and tools to other leaders in the Agency. This program will be run by the ELG.

Directors In-service

The ELG also initiated a Directors In-service forum held over two days at Palmerston in May 2007. The purpose of this In-service was to raise the focus of governance responsibilities throughout senior management in the Agency. In addition to a presentation by the Northern Territory Auditor-General, senior management were provided an overview of legislative governance frameworks in the Northern Territory Public Sector. The ELG also provided feedback from their experience on the Leadership Development Program and the Chief Executive committed to roll this program out to senior management. More than 50 employees attended the In-Service. As a result of its initial success, the In-Service will be held biannually.

Systems and Structures

The Agency's Culture Sensing Workshops identified the need for an effective system of providing staff with feedback. Although the Agency formally adopted a performance management system during 2006-07, it was clear that it could be improved on. A concerted system development task is in progress by the ELG to redevelop this system and implement it in a way that has real benefits for the Agency and employees. This will be followed by other whole of organisation systems.

Accountability and Authority

The impact the Territory's *Financial Management Act* and *Public Sector Employment and Management Act* has on the Agency's governance framework, and in particular on Agency leaders' accountabilities and authorities, was identified early in the year, resulting in the inaugural In-service forum for Agency senior managers held in May. This workshop outlined the legislative framework provided by the *Financial Management Act* and the responsibilities of leaders and managers.

Strategic Objectives 2007-14

In 2005-06, the Agency's first year of operation, the creation of strategic objectives commenced in the form of a strategic planning workshop with the Executive Leadership Group (ELG).

In 2006-07 the Agency finalised its *Strategic Objectives 2007-14* which details its broad strategic intent for the next seven years and show's how the Agency's objectives relate to the Key Functional Responsibilities and Outcomes required by the Northern Territory Government in Budget Papers. The *Strategic Objectives 2007-14* also shows how the Agency's organisational structure relates to delivering these outcomes.

The creation of these Strategic Objectives involved consultation with employees from across the Agency and gave them the opportunity to provide comment on the Strategic Objectives in draft form. This initial draft was created by members of the Agency's Senior Policy Unit and circulated amongst the ELG. Following endorsement of the draft by the ELG, it was exhibited on the Agency's intranet for a short period to stimulate employee thoughts across all employment levels on the content of the document, and raise the awareness of its creation.

After input was received from staff through the Intranet exhibition, these submissions were collated and implemented at the discretion of the ELG and a refined version was created. Led by the Chief Executive, the ELG then conducted workshops with more than 250 staff in Alice Springs, Katherine and Darwin on the content of the *Strategic Objectives 2007-14*, whereby employees could have direct dialogue with the ELG on the Agency's future direction. This feedback then shaped the final outcome of the Agency's *Strategic Objectives 2007-14*, which has now been widely dispersed amongst employees in hard copy, is posted on the Intranet and now forms part of the Agency's induction package.

The final outcome of the *Strategic Objectives 2007-14*, was the finalisation of the Agency's vision, purpose, strategic objectives, and key functional responsibilities.

Vision

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

Purpose

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

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

Strategic Objectives

By working effectively to achieve this Vision, over the next seven years the Agency will succeed in being:

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

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

Key Functional Responsibilities

The Agency's Key Functional Responsibilities, or what it is required to do by the Northern Territory Government, is determined in **Budget Paper 3**. These key functional responsibilities are determined as priorities by government for the Agency to manage. They are:

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

Business Units

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

Ethical and Responsible Decision Making

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

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

A Working Well Together (Code of Conduct and Values) training program was held in Darwin, Palmerston, Berry Spring, Katherine and Alice Springs with a total of 79 employees participating in this reporting period. The program is designed to enhance employee's knowledge of ethical business practices and to provide practical strategies for dealing with situations that arise at work. It also draws on the *Northern Territory Public Sector Principles and Code of Conduct* as the source document which sets out the conduct expected of all Northern Territory Public Sector employees and the values they are obliged to uphold.

In addition a complaints handling system was developed in 2006-07 encompassing a:

- Complaints Handling Policy;
- Complaints Handling Procedure;
- Complaints Flowchart; and
- Sample Complaints Form.

This framework provides a best practice model for handling complaints from Agency clients in recognition that effective complaint handling is a key component of good customer service.

Risk Management Practices

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

A Finance and Governance Division was created within the Agency in May 2006 with responsibility for identifying and instilling its governance risks, risk management and internal audit frameworks and processes to address these risks. The focus on leadership has been a key component of this in 2006-07.

Procurement

The Agency determined that one of its major risks, in terms of compliance, related to procurement. Many of the challenges the Agency was having related to the way it went about procuring goods and services and managing contracts.

A Procurement Unit was established in January 2007 and has already made considerable progress in refining and improving Agency procurement practices. The Auditor-General's compliance audit in April/May 2007 identified procurement as a risk for the Agency, but also confirmed the actions the Agency had taken to address this aspect were appropriately directed.

Audit Committee

The Executive Leadership Group (ELG) endorsed the establishment of an Audit Committee in June 2007 with membership to consist of the Chief Executive, two ELG members and two external representatives. The committee members are Diana Leeder and Lyn Allen from the ELG, Catherine Wauchope, Assistant Under-Treasurer Northern Territory Treasury and Iain Summers, FCA, FCPA and past Auditor-General for the Northern Territory (1995-2002) as an expert Chairperson.

It is intended the Audit Committee will be responsible for the implementation of internal audit processes and provide a level of assurance about the governance framework and internal control practices of the Agency. In the absence of a formal separate standing audit or risk management committee during the year, the Agency's ELG assumed these responsibilities.

Risk Assessment and Management

A series of risk assessment practices and reviews of Agency operations was conducted in 2006-07. Many of these were completed by employees with Risk Management Services from the Northern Territory Department of the Chief Minister.

Strategic Business Risk Assessment of Finance and Governance

In February 2007 the Agency's Finance and Governance Division conducted a risk assessment workshop, facilitated by the Northern Territory's Department of the Chief Minister's Risk Management Services. The risk assessment was conducted using the proprietary Ops Maps ©. The focus was on understanding the context of the Agency and identifying potential risks faced by the Division in the delivery of its objectives. The assessment was a successful exercise in identifying and prioritising the risks to the Division, resulting in the development of various treatment plans to help mitigate these risks.

Review of administrative procedures of the Environmental Assessment Act

The Environment and Heritage Division undertook an evaluation of the administrative procedures of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The review highlighted a number of areas where improvements could be made to statutory timelines and internal procedures. This information has been prepared to be presented to the new EPA Board and will form the basis of a redraft of the procedures.

Review of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act

A review was conducted by Agency employees to assess the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* relating to permits and wildlife compliance to allow officers to issue infringement notices for breaches.

Review and study on economic and social value of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory

Charles Darwin University produced a comprehensive review and scoping study on the economic and social value of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory as part of its Silver Jubilee Celebrations. The report formed the basis of a Parliamentary Statement delivered by the Minister for Arts and Museums in October 2006.

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

Significant effort was invested in the review of security operating procedures, emergency evacuation and cyclone plans for the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory and associated properties. The review is undertaken annually and includes the Senior Management Team, Facilities and General Services Manager and the Cyclone Management Team. A key objective of the review considers the changing needs of safety, security issues and risk management issues in the museum and art gallery environment. Training is developed, and implemented in each area in accordance with the requirements of the reviews.

Environmental Data Gathering and Reporting for Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory

In 2006-07 the Environmental Data Gathering and Reporting for the previous financial year, 2005-06 audit for electricity, gas and diesel usage was completed as part of the *Northern Territory Government 2005-06 Building Energy and Greenhouse Report*. This was the first annual report prepared under the *Northern Territory Government Energy Smart Buildings Policy*.

Strategic Business Risk Assessment of Biological Parks Division

A strategic business risk assessment of the Biological Parks Division occurred in December 2006 with Risk Management Services of the Department of the Chief Minister, using its proprietary Risk Mat[®] methodology. The report identified the priority strategic business risks faced by the Division and the actions planned to manage those risks.

Strategic Business Risk Assessment of Parks Division

Throughout the year, Risk Management Services of the Northern Territory Department of the Chief Minister facilitated operational risk assessment workshops with a number of parks districts across the Northern Territory to assist each management district to prepare risk management plans.

Risk Assessment of Leanyer Recreation Park

The Occupational Health and Safety Unit of the Northern Territory Department of Corporate and Information Services reviewed the Operations Manual for Leanyer Recreation Park to ensure adequate safety procedures were being practised.

Strategic Business Risk Assessment of Environment and Heritage Division

In November 2006, the Risk Management Services of the Northern Territory Department of the Chief Minister facilitated a risk management workshop for a major proposal submitted for environmental assessment. The process identified environmental and political risks associated with the project and the information was used to prepare the guidelines for an Environmental Impact Statement for the project. The outcome was that the project was significantly altered to mitigate those risks, with this risk assessment process now being implemented for all major projects.

Strategic Business Risk Assessment of Natural Resource Management Division

In April 2006, Risk Management Services of the Northern Territory Department of the Chief Minister facilitated an operational risk assessment workshop with Bushfires NT which identified a suite of risks, which are being managed through a range of initiatives including a regional restructure and review of resource distribution.

Audits

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

External Audits

Several external audits were performed by the Auditor-General's Office in 2006-07.

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts Compliance Audit 2007

This audit was conducted by the Auditor-General to review the effectiveness of the Agency's internal control systems and to ensure accountable officers' responsibilities were met. The audit found that, subject to a few issues, the accounting and control procedures provided reasonable assurance the responsibilities of the accountable officers were met.

Outcomes of the Audit were:

- Establishment of the Agency's own Audit Committee in June 2007.
- Agency procurement policy and guidelines were developed to address problems created by being a decentralised agency with disbursed operational areas.
- Finance and Governance policies were published on the intranet to allow for remote area employee access.

Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park Board Financial Statements 2005-06 (Audit completed 2006-07)

The objective of the audit was to review the 2005-06 financial statements of the Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park Board for the year ended 30 June 2006 to form an opinion on the financial statements. The Auditor-General issued an unqualified audit opinion on the financial statements.

This is the first time for many years that an unqualified opinion was received for these financial statements.

Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary and Marine Park Board Financial Statements 2005-06 (Audit completed 2006-07)

The objective of the audit was to examine the 2005-06 financial statements of the Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary and Marine Park Board for the year ended 30 June 2006 to form an opinion on the financial statements. The Auditor-General issued an unqualified audit opinion on the financial statements.

This is the first time for many years that an unqualified opinion was received for these financial statements.

The Territory Wildlife Parks Government Business Division Financial Statements for 2005-06 (Audit Completed 2006-07)

An audit was conducted by the Auditor-General to form an opinion on the Territory Wildlife Parks', Government Business Division, financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2006.

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

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 2006-07 financial year.

National Heritage Trust – Single Holding Account – November 2006

An audit was conducted to verify that funds received from the Australian Government, under the Bilateral Agreement, were credited to the Single Holding Account and that funds had been released from the Single Holding Account consistent with Joint Steering Committee recommendations; and were spent in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Financial Agreement

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

Gulf Water Study – October 2006

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

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

Regional Arts Fund Program – February 2007

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

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

Visions of Australia Program – Speaking with Cloth – January 2007

An audit was conducted to form an opinion as to the completeness and accuracy of the acquittal accounts. To confirm all funds received were expended for the purpose of the activity and in accordance with the funding agreement

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

Infrastructure Management

Infrastructure management 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 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 2006-07 included repairs to:

- Fannie Bay Goal (Darwin);
- Cape Don Historical buildings;
- Tennant Creek Telegraph Station;
- Adelaide River bridge;
- Old Stone Hut (Alice Springs);
- Daly Waters Aviation Complex;
- The Residency (Alice Springs);
- Old Court House (Alice Springs);
- Connellan Hangar (Alice Springs);
- 1873 Cypress Pine Overland Telegraph Poles (Pine Creek); and
- Darwin Town Hall Ruins and Darwin Government House.

Challenges in 2006-07

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.

Future Priorities in 2007-08

Infrastructure priorities for 2006-07 include:

- Continued works at the Mary River Wetlands desalination plant, east of Darwin, which includes construction of new weirs and upgrading existing weirs for saltwater intrusion control works.
- Abolition facilities at Nitmuluk National Park, near Katherine.
- Develop park infrastructure at Channel Point, which includes a boat launching facility, camping ground, roads, parking, interpretive displays, Ranger office accommodation and storage.
- Upgrade and expand visitor facilities in the West MacDonnell National Park, near Alice Springs, which includes additional shade shelters, presentation areas and ablution facilities.

Sub-Committee Reports

The Agency has two sub-committees which report to the Executive Leadership Group (ELG) 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.

Information Management Committee

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.

Chair: John Gilmour

Barry Russell	Karen Weston
Jacinta Stanford	Brent Williams
Daryl Chin	Penelope McDonald
Claire Milikins	Mac Moyses
Lyn Allen	Greg Leach

Key Outcomes

- Endorsed a proposal to the ELG for a significant project to migrate Agency Business Systems into a new and supported Business Application Server environment.
- Performed an audit of all computers including laptops across the whole department.
- Involved in a large project to roll out a new Information and Communications infrastructure across all remote parks sites within the Agency.

Future Priorities

- Improve information governance through auditing and rationalising business system architecture and 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.

Publications Committee

Responsible for reviewing and making a recommendation to the Executive Leadership Group (ELG) on Agency work that is considered worthwhile of publication. The Committee defines a publication as published work that has been researched, designed and produced for sale and/or distribution to the general public through the print, internet, audiovisual, sound or other electronic media. The ELG established this committee in November 2006.

Chair: Diana Leeder

Jim Grant	Glenn Wightman
Michael Wells	Alison Derry
James Pratt	Megan Kelly

Key Outcomes

- Established a Terms of Reference for the Committee to operate.
- Determined the extent to which a publishing program currently exists across the Agency and how it is funded.
- Commenced work on a draft Publications Policy for consideration by the ELG.

Future Priorities

- Provide strategic direction for an Agency publishing program to ensure it contributes to the Strategic Objectives of the Agency.

Greener Government

The Agency is undertaking a range of activities to reduce the environmental impact of its operations.

Reducing Energy Usage

The Northern Territory Government has set energy use targets for government controlled buildings under the **Energy Smart Buildings Policy**. The Agency is committed to reducing energy usage and there were a number of key achievements during 2006-07 throughout its locations at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), Alice Springs Plaza, Darwin Plaza, Goyder Building (Palmerston) and NRETA Complex Berrimah including:

- Installation of seven day time switches on boiling water units, printers and photocopiers.
- Minimisation of air conditioner operations hours.
- De-lamped in selected areas, replaced 50W halogen lamps with 35W halogen lamps and switched off lights in unoccupied areas and installed occupancy sensors in selected areas.
- Encouraged staff to follow computer turn off policy when leaving the workplace.
- The Agency's largest energy using facility, MAGNT, has commenced stage two of the museum recladding project to improve efficiency, worth \$150 000.
- Installed dynamic dimming system in perimeter open plan zones at the Goyder Centre.
- Reduced outside air quantities to Nitmiluk Visitor Centre and installed CO2 sensors.
- Installed high efficiency motors on water supply pumps
- The Araluen Centre is participating in the Alice Springs Solar City initiative, with the air conditioners for the Centre proposed to be converted to solar power.

Reducing Transport Emissions

The Northern Territory Government has committed itself to a 5 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from its passenger vehicle fleet. The Agency has undertaken the following measures to meet this target:

- Converting 6 cylinder vehicles to 4 cylinder vehicles where practical, with eight 6 cylinder vehicles converted in 2006-07.
- Increased the number of hybrid vehicles (fuelled by petrol and electricity) from two to four in 2006-07, with a view to converting sealed road based vehicles to hybrid vehicles as leases expire.
- Exploring ways to offset greenhouse gas emissions from government passenger vehicles.

The Agency is also promoting alternative, sustainable forms of transport for staff and their communities:

- Participation in the **NT TravelSmart pilot program 2006-07**.
- Promotion of walking/riding to work and car pooling.
- Assessing secure bike storage options and improvements to shower/change facilities.

The Agency's Environment Protection Agency (EPA) Program is planning to offset emissions from work-related air travel in 2007-08, with the agreed approach to provide a model for offsetting air emissions for other agencies of the Northern Territory Government.

Greenhouse Action Across Northern Territory Government

The Agency is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the *Northern Territory Strategy for Greenhouse Action 2006*. One of the objectives of the strategy is for government to “provide leadership to the community by demonstrating how Government is addressing greenhouse emissions generated by its own activities”.

Actions implemented by the Agency under this objective include:

Promotion of greenhouse friendly behaviour as part of ‘greening of government’ initiatives in areas such as procurement, and waste minimisation and recovery.

- The Northern Territory Government Procurement Directions, which underpins the legislative framework managing government procurement activities in the Territory, has been amended to include more specific information on environmental protection and greening of government principles.
- Further initiatives are expected to be developed in 2007-08, and include training programs, guidance materials and tools to assist procurement officers to comply with these principles.
- The Agency has installed recycling bins in all office accommodation, and promotes double-sided printing and copying of all documents.

Continue to contribute to the development of national greenhouse policy initiatives, including emissions trading, while ensuring that the Territory’s unique circumstances are adequately considered.

- The Agency is participating actively in the implementation of the Council of Australian Governments Collaborative Plan of Action on Climate Change. This has included involvement in the development of a national mandatory greenhouse and energy reporting system.
- The Northern Territory Government is an active member of the National Emissions Trading Taskforce which released a discussion paper on a possible design of a national emissions trading scheme on 16 August 2006. The Agency (and Northern Territory Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Mines) hosted a public forum and government briefing on a National Emissions Trading System in November 2006. The Agency continues to be engaged in the Taskforce, which is expected to provide a final report to the Council for the Australian Federation in the second half of 2007.
- The Agency participated on the Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) Climate Change Working Group, which in November 2006 gained EPHC agreement to seven climate change areas of priority.
- The Agency represents the Northern Territory Government on the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council and its working groups, including the Climate Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Working Group. In November 2006 the Ministerial Council endorsed a \$2.6 million package of actions across five priority areas including: Biodiversity, Agriculture, Integration, Coasts and Water.
- The Agency leads the Northern Territory Government’s engagement in a national review of the economic impacts of climate change with other state and territory governments – the Garnaut Review.

Foster partnerships with Northern Territory local government councils, land councils and community groups to encourage sharing of information and facilitate efficient use of greenhouse resources in the Northern Territory.

- The Agency's EPA Program continues to encourage joint local government, land council and community applications for greenhouse related project funding through the EnvironmeNT Grants program.
- Increased funding was provided to COOLmob program from 2006-07 to deliver greenhouse and sustainability programs in Darwin and Alice Springs.
- The Agency has worked with Aboriginal land councils of West Arnhem Land to implement the West Arnhem Fire Management Agreement, the worlds first greenhouse gas offset project based on bushfire management where Traditional Owners are paid to reduce late dry season wildfires.
- The Agency has promoted and supported community greenhouse awareness raising events including:
 - 2006 World Environment Day climate change forum;
 - Climate change presentations to the Planning Institute Australia (NT) and Northern Australian Water Use Experts Summit;
 - Emissions trading presentation to Charles Darwin University workshop and seminar and Minerals Council Workshop; and
 - COOLcommute day in June 2007.
- The Agency has also supported local government action in minimisation and reuse of waste to landfill, and has investigated and reported to the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage on the potential for expanding the capture and use of landfill gas in the Northern Territory, after consultation with local government and industry stakeholders.
- The Agency's Greenhouse website at <http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/environment/greenhouse> provides access to a wide variety of detailed information regarding climate change in the Northern Territory, nationally and globally.

Governing Legislation

The Agency is responsible for administering 22 Acts and 21 pieces of subordinate legislation, on behalf of the Ministers 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 2006-07 is located in the Appendix on page 223.

The Agency has developed a program of review aimed at ensuring its legislation remains relevant to its functions and incorporates best practice in the areas it administers. The Agency also has a statutory responsibility for certain authorities and bodies as listed in the Appendix on page 217.

Legal Proceedings Conducted by the Agency

The Agency is responsible for administering 43 pieces of legislation, with 22 Acts and 21 pieces of subordinate legislation. During 2006-07 the Agency commenced four legal proceedings of alleged breaches of Acts. Two of these proceedings have resulted in convictions. Two proceedings remained outstanding at 30 June 2007.

An additional three legal proceedings were ongoing from 2005-06 and were finalised in 2006-07. All three resulted in convictions. However an appeal was lodged by the Agency against the inadequacy of the fine in one case.

Legal proceedings 2006-07

Act	Section of Act for Alleged Breach	Charge	Result	Total Penalty	Appeal Status
<i>Bushfires Act</i>	Section 35	Setting fire to bush or other flammable material on land within a fire protection zone	Conviction recorded	\$2040, plus costs of \$433	N/A
	Section 52 (2) (a)	Fail to comply with a requirement of a fire warden	Charge withdrawn	N/A	N/A
<i>Bushfires Act</i>	Section 35	Setting fire to bush or other flammable material on land within a fire protection zone	Court proceedings ongoing as at 30 June 2007	N/A	N/A
<i>Territory Parks and Wildlife Act</i>	Section 66 (2)	Possess Protected Wildlife	Conviction recorded	\$440	N/A
<i>Territory Parks and Wildlife Act</i>	Section 66 (2)	Possess Protected Wildlife; and Possess Prohibited Entrant	Court proceedings ongoing as at 30 June 2007	N/A	N/A

Note *Bushfires Act* prosecutions that were instigated in 2006-07 resulted from elections by the offenders not to pay infringement notices (infringement notice penalty section 35: \$500; section 52: \$500) but rather to defend the matter in court.

Legal proceedings ongoing from 2005-06

Act	Section of Act for Alleged Breach	Charge	Result	Total Penalty	Appeal Status
<i>Territory Parks and Wildlife Act</i>	Section 66 (2)	Possess Protected Wildlife x 4	Conviction recorded	\$960	N/A
	Section 66 (1)	Take or interfere with protected wildlife	Conviction recorded	\$280	N/A
<i>Territory Parks and Wildlife Act</i>	Section 66 (2)	Possess Protected Wildlife	Conviction recorded	\$1580	N/A
<i>Territory Parks and Wildlife Act</i>	Section 66 (3)	Take Protected Wildlife out of the Territory without a permit	Conviction recorded	\$540	Appeal by Agency against inadequacy of fine

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 the information 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 HR and Legal Services
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.

Request for Access to Information in 2006-07

In 2006-07, the Agency responded to two new formal information requests which were completed within the statutory timeframe. Both requests were for government information. One additional request was carried over from 2005-06, as it was still in progress. No applications were refused, however the request that was carried over from 2005-06 was subsequently withdrawn by the applicant. No requests were ongoing at the end of 2006-07.

<i>Information Act</i> Requests	2005-06	2006-07
Applications carried over from previous year	N/A	1
Applications to access personal information	1	0
Applications to access government information	2	2
Requests withdrawn	1	1
Responses completed within 30 day period	1	2
Responses completed exceeding 30 day period	0	0
Applications on hand as at 30 June	1	0

Types of Government Information Held by the Agency

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

A comprehensive list of the Agency's publications is available on the Internet.

Ombudsmen Inquiries

There were no new Ombudsmen inquiries in 2006-07.

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

The Agency is in the process of updating and re-designing its website to conform with the new look and feel of all Northern Territory Government Agencies. The Agency also launched the Northern Territory's first web enabled data information tool, **NRETA Maps**. This publicly available application allows users to access soil, vegetation and groundwater 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 employees provides access to Executive Leadership Group 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

- Complete the transfer of data from the current website to the new look Northern Territory Government Website.
- Enable a web application that will allow users to search for activities within the Parks area of the Internet, specific to activities and facilities of regions in the Northern Territory.
- Update database functions for public use of information related to the Australian Virtual Herbarium

Chief Executive's Newsletter

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

Media Release Distribution

The Marketing and Communications Business Unit issued 216 media releases to local, national and international media in relation to the Agency's activities. This figure incorporates both proactive and reactive releases to media inquiries, and does not include general requests for interviews by media with Agency staff. Media training for 15 staff was also coordinated by the Marketing and Communications Unit.

	2005-06	2006-07
Media Releases Issued	169	216

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 print, radio, television and web mediums. Friday Round Up is posted on the Intranet every week.

Secretariat

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

Secretariat Services	2005-06	2006-07
Ministerials (figure includes Executive Council submissions)	1296	1373
Cabinet Submissions for the Agency	58	48
Cabinet Comments for Other Government Agencies	78	64
Legislative Assembly Briefings	257	298
Estimates Committee Briefings	101	140
Executive Council Submissions	5	10
Community Cabinet Meeting Briefings	57	72
Business Round-Table Meeting Briefings	23	10

Strategic Partnerships

Cooperative Partnerships

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

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

Other Northern Territory Government Agencies

- Progressed the Indigenous Arts Strategy's **Building Strong Arts Business** as a whole of Northern Territory Government approach with Tourism NT, Department of Employment, Education and Training, Department of the Chief Minister, the Department of Local Government, Housing and Sport, the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and the Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development.

- Worked with the Department of the Chief Minister on:
 - development of the **Red Centre Way Strategy**;
 - the Greenhouse Strategy Steering Committee to oversee the implementation of the **Northern Territory Strategy for Greenhouse Action 2006**; and
 - the Northern Territory Government Inter Agency Film Taskforce for the filming of *Australia*.
- Assisted with the development and delivery of the National Treasures exhibition from Australia's Great Libraries through the Northern Territory Library, with the Department of Local Government, Housing and Sport.
- Worked with the Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines in the emergency response under AusBIOSEC, including weed incursions and animal and plant diseases. This was to review across agency training for the Northern Territory Bio Security Plan.
- Worked with the Department of Health and Community Services to undertake air quality monitoring for the Darwin region, to assist with reporting against National Air Standards.
- Worked with the Power and Water Corporation to develop and implement the **Alice Springs Water Efficiency Program** and Central Australia Water Conservation Program.

Other Governments

- Provided secretariat support and co-chaired the Steering Committee and the Operational Group of the 'Healthy Country Healthy People' schedule, developed with the Australian Government. This program will deliver over \$20 million towards Indigenous land and sea management outcomes in the Northern Territory over the next two years.
- Contributed to the development of the first national State of Rangelands report as a partner in the Australian Collaborative Rangelands Information System (with Commonwealth and State governments).

- Worked collaboratively with Parks Australia's Kakadu National Park management to train employees and assist in the capture and handling of problem crocodiles. Collaborated with Parks Australia to monitor plant and animal populations in Kakadu National Park.
- Developed the [Australian Pest Animal Strategy](#) in conjunction with other States and Territories and the Australian Government.
- Developed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Water Resources (with Northern Territory Fisheries) on Cooperative Marine Planning in the Waters Adjacent to the Northern Territory.
- Continued to work in partnership with hydrographers and weather forecasters at the Bureau of Meteorology.
- Worked with the National Water Commission to deliver projects on:
 - integrated surface water – groundwater models in the Daly River catchment and Darwin Rural area to predict responses to different land use and development;
 - groundwater and surface water interaction in the Gulf region;
 - determination of sustainability of groundwater resources along the western margin of the Great Artesian Basin; and
 - a baseline assessment of the water resources of Australia in accordance with the [National Water Initiative Intergovernmental Agreement](#).
- Worked with the National Water Implementation Metering Expert Group to develop national standards for rural bore meters and developed water allocation plans to meet the Agency's obligations under the National Water Commission.
- Continued a partnership between the Australian and Northern Territory Governments through a new bilateral agreement for the assessment of environmental and heritage matters under the [Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act](#).

- Continued to administer and provide information on shipwrecks in Commonwealth waters on behalf of the Australian Department of the Environment and Water Resources.
- Delivered the [Regional Arts Fund](#), in partnership with the Department of Communication, Information Technology and the Arts, which contributes to participation in and access to cultural activities in regional, remote and very remote/isolated communities.

Landowners and Resource Managers

- Undertook fire management programs across the Northern Territory which included a continued high level of liaison with the Bushfires Council, landowners and Traditional Owners.
- Continued a partnership with Heytesbury Beef and local land managers to examine options for maintaining biodiversity on pastoral lands.
- Contributed to the understanding of post-mine rehabilitation through the assessment of plant and animal assemblages across a rehabilitation sequence following strip-mining at Gove.
- Formed partnerships with landowners volunteering to have their bore water usage metered, for data collection, to assist in the development of a water allocation plan.
- Provided training, technical advice and strategic planning support to community groups and land owners for on ground weed management activities and programs across the Northern Territory.

Indigenous Groups

- Worked with, sought advice, guidance and involvement in developments with:
 - Limilngan-Wulna, Traditional Owners of Ludawei, at Window on the Wetlands
 - Central Arrernte Apmere-atyeye Traditional Owners at the Alice Springs Desert Park
 - Kungarakana / Warrai custodians at the Territory Wildlife Park for advice, guidance and involvement in Park developments.
- Continued to work with Land Council's such as the Northern Land Council, the Central Land Council, the Tiwi Land Council, the Anindilyakwa Land Council and Indigenous Land Corporations on:
 - joint management;
 - feral animal control;
 - weed management; and
 - threatened species.
- Maintained and developed partnerships with a number of Indigenous ranger groups including Dhimurru, Anindilyakwa, Lianhawirriyarra, Marthakal, Tiwi Islands, and Laynhapuy Sea Ranger Groups to undertake collaborative work through the [Northern Territory Marine Debris Monitoring Program](#) on threatened species, biodiversity assessment and conservation management.
- Maintained research relationships with Indigenous communities in the Tiwi Islands, Borroloola and Groote Eylandt and conducted sea turtle research projects in these areas.
- Developed and delivered, in partnership with Injalak Arts and Crafts Association (Arnhem), a program of public demonstrations and floor talks in association with the *Twined Together: Kunmadj Njalehnjaleken* exhibition at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.

- Developed and delivered, in partnership with Desart Inc (The Association of Central Australian Aboriginal Art and Craft Centres), the annual Desert Mob exhibition and associated events.

Research Providers

- Worked with Charles Darwin University to:
 - conduct fire research under the [Burning for Biodiversity](#) program; and
 - develop partnerships with interstate and international experts for projects on weed risk management in the Northern Territory, which has secured funding of \$1.8 million.
- Worked with Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge research hub to:
 - understand the nutrients that enter Darwin Harbour from urban stormwater, sewage and other sources, and evaluate the capacity of the Harbour to receive nutrients and the impact this may have on the Harbour values declared under the *Water Act*; and
 - understand the nutrient dynamics of the Daly River and the impacts of nutrient pollution and reduced dry season flows that result from groundwater extraction for consumptive use, and the effect this will have on water quality, flora and fauna.
 - developed methodologies for total water resource inventory and assessment in tropical Australia and integrated water management planning for northern Australian rivers.
- Worked with CSIRO to:
 - conduct fire research under the [Burning for Biodiversity](#) program;
 - conduct collaborative research projects with Charles Darwin University funded by the Natural Action Plan for Salinity in the Daly and Keep Rivers; and
 - determine environmental flow requirements for fish in the Water Control Districts of Darwin and Katherine, as part of a collaborative National Heritage Trust project - Environmental Flow and Cultural Values of the Katherine and Howard River Systems.

- Continued work developing strategic research relationships with Indonesian research agencies/institutes (Southeast Asia Coral Reef Monitoring network, Gondol Research Institute of Mariculture) with a view to collaborative research in the Arafura-Timor region.

Arts and Related Sectors

- Continued to work in partnership with the Telstra Corporation Limited in the development and delivery of the annual Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award.
- Participated in the National Education and the Arts Network with the purpose of enhancing the links between education and the arts. The Network comprises of representatives of all state and territory education and arts departments, the Australian Departments of Education, Science and Training and Communications, Information Technology and the Arts and the Australia Council for the Arts.

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:

The Northern Territory Arts Grants Board

The Northern Territory Arts Grants Board provides sector involvement in decision making relating to government arts grants, to ensure a more transparent, accountable and arms-length process for the allocation of Arts Grants project funding. The role of the Arts Grants Board is to assess project applications to the Northern Territory Arts Grants Program across all art forms and categories. Secretariat support is supplied by the Agency.

The Daly River Management Advisory Committee

The Daly River Management Advisory Committee (DRMAC) was appointed by the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage in 2006 to work with relevant Northern Territory Government agencies to develop options for the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources within the Daly River region. Secretariat and financial support is provided by the Agency.

The Katherine Water Advisory Committee

The Katherine Water Advisory Committee was appointed by the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage in 2006 as a sub-committee of DRMAC. It advises government through the DRMAC on matters relating to the management of water resources within the Katherine Water Control District (WCD). The initial focus of this committee will be to advise government on the formulation of a Water Allocation Plan for the Tindal Limestone Aquifer within the Katherine WCD. Secretariat and financial support is provided by the Agency.

The Daly River Aboriginal Reference Group

Financial support is provided to the Northern Land Council to convene the Daly River Aboriginal Reference Group to provide Traditional Owners, and other Aboriginal stakeholders in the Daly region, with the opportunity to discuss and provide input into the work of the Daly River Management Advisory Committee and the Katherine Water Allocation Committee.

Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary and Marine Park Board

Members of the Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary and Marine Park Board are appointed by the Minister for Parks and Wildlife to prepare Plans of Management for the control and management of the sanctuary and/or marine park, determine the rights of access and ensure adequate protection of sites of spiritual or other importance in Aboriginal tradition. Secretariat and financial support is provided by the Agency.

Nitmiluk Board of Management

The Agency's Parks Division, through the Parks and Wildlife Services, is responsible for the day-to-day management of Nitmiluk National Park under the direction of the Nitmiluk Board of Management. Secretariat support is provided by the Agency.

Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

Members of Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee are appointed by the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage. The Committee was established to oversee implementation of the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management and to advise the Minister on matters relating to the environment, planning and development of the Darwin Harbour Catchment. The Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee oversees two working groups: the Ecosystem Monitoring Group and the Ecosystem Research Group. Secretariat and financial support is provided by the Agency.

Environment Protection Agency (EPA) Board

Members of the Environment Protection Agency Board were appointed by the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage to advise government about the form and function of a Northern Territory Environment Protection Agency. Secretariat and financial support is provided by the Agency.

Natural Resource Management Board (Northern Territory) Inc

The Natural Resources Management Board (NT) Inc has been established in order to implement a strategic approach to natural resource management throughout the Northern Territory Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan and Regional Investment Strategy, as agreed by the Northern Territory and Australian Governments. Secretariat support is provided by the Agency.

Marine Protected Areas Stakeholder Advisory Committee

This committee was formed to provide feedback on the development of the draft Northern Territory Marine Protected Areas Strategy and comprises stakeholders from fishing, conservation, mining, Aboriginal and other interests. The committee met twice in 2007 and is currently considering drafts of key documents relevant to developing a Northern Territory Marine Protected Areas Strategy. Secretariat support is provided by the Agency.

Community Engagement

The Agency engaged with members of the community in a number of ways during 2006-07. 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

- Held a community meeting on the Draft Plan of Management for the Howard Springs Nature Park, with public comment and consultation conducted between 6 December 2006 and 9 February 2007.
- Invited public comment for the Draft Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve Joint Management Plan.
- Established management committees for the Knuckeyes Lagoon Conservation Area and the Casuarina Coastal Reserve to encourage community involvement in park and reserve management (Darwin).
- Invited public comment for the Draft Cobourg Marine Park Plan of Management between 28 October and 4 December 2006.
- Consulted Traditional Owners in the development of the Plans of Management for the Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve, Tnorala Conservation Reserve and Flora River Nature Park.
- Worked with the Casuarina Coastal Reserve Landcare group to revegetate the dunes opposite the Free Beach, including installation of irrigation and fenced off areas re-planted with appropriate trees and shrubs.

- Conducted, through the provision of projects to Larrakia Nation:
 - revegetation work within Holmes Jungle Nature Park Monsoon Forest;
 - control of coffee bush along the mangroves of Rapid Creek; and
 - clearing of area from Trower Road to the University ovals to provide training and development opportunities to Indigenous Territorians.

Output Group: Biological Parks

Biological Parks Division

Alice Springs Desert Park

- Continued to consult and involve central Arrernte Apmere-atyeye custodians at the Alice Springs Desert Park on opportunities and developments.
- Hosted two DesArt in the Park Indigenous Art night markets and the Big November Night (a free night of local entertainment) at the Alice Springs Desert Park.
- Hosted Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council Tjanpi Desert Weavers for monthly weaving workshops with Alice Springs Desert Park visitors.
- Developed new children's Internet pages with local primary school students, Arrernte elders and students in Tucson Arizona for the Alice Springs Desert Park.
- Developed an 'Adopt-a-School' program with Yipirinya School at the Alice Springs Desert Park to engage young local Indigenous students to experience career options, develop employability skills and build self esteem.
- Hosted 8024 Territory school students, free of charge, at the Alice Springs Desert Park and Territory Wildlife Park.

- Hosted Green Corps projects at the Alice Springs Desert Park.
- Produced 70 Desert Fuchsia (*Eremophila dalyana*) at the Alice Springs Desert Park and donated them to Ampilatwatja community for a horticultural project to reduce pressure on wild specimens.
- Engaged a small group of members of the public to develop a new morning bird tour at the Alice Springs Desert Park.
- Conducted planning surveys with visitors and locals to assist with the future planning and management of the Alice Springs Desert Park.
- Participated in Youth Week activities at the Alice Springs Desert Park.

Territory Wildlife Park

- Continued to develop partnerships and employment opportunities for Limilngan-Wulna Traditional Owners of Ludawei at Window on the Wetlands who now play a major role in the direction and operations of the centre.
- Continued to consult and involve Kungarakan-Warrai custodians at the Territory Wildlife Park on opportunities and developments.
- Initiated a process of community engagement as part of the Territory Wildlife Park's **Burning for Biodiversity program** and conducted a field day for rural land owners.
- Hosted 8024 free of charge Territory school students at the Alice Springs Desert Park and Territory Wildlife Park.
- Hosted Green Corps projects at the Territory Wildlife Park.
- Developed a volunteer work experience program with Berry Springs High School Students at Territory Wildlife Park.
- Participated in Youth Week activities at the Territory Wildlife Park.

George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens

- Hosted 'Longtimers' morning tea and a Heritage Week afternoon tea at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens for long term Darwin residents to develop a better understanding of the history of the gardens.
- Hosted the Tropical Gardens Spectacular, Replant and significant parts of the Darwin Festival at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.
- Engaged with the Thai Buddhist Society of the Northern Territory to assist them with accessing significant wood from the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens for the laying of the foundation stone of their Cultural Centre.
- Assisted the Stolen Generation with their Sorry Day commemorations at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.
- Hosted Green Corps projects at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.
- Engaged with top end field naturalists to develop a new self guided bird walk at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.

Output Group: Natural Resources

Biodiversity Conservation Division

- Developed and maintained close collaboration between wildlife scientists and Indigenous rangers for survey and management of threatened species as well as the control of feral vertebrates on the Tiwi Islands (with Tiwi Land Council), Groote Eylandt (Anindilyakwa Land Council), north-eastern Arnhem Land and Upper Daly Land Trust areas (Northern Land Council), and Tanami Desert, Hermannsburg area and Uluru area (Central Land Council).
- Collaborated with pastoralists and Indigenous communities in the Victoria River District to successfully conduct a five-year aerial survey of feral horses and donkeys in accordance with the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* and the *Pastoral Lands Act*.
- Maintained close collaboration between wildlife scientists and pastoral and Indigenous landholders in Central Australia to develop a management program for feral camels.
- Undertook marine debris surveys as part of the **Northern Territory Marine Debris Monitoring Program** with Dhimurru, Anindilyakwa, Lianhawirriyarra, Marthakal, Tiwi Islands and Laynhapuy Sea Ranger Groups and Conservation Volunteers Australia. This is a major ongoing effort to mitigate the impacts of discarded fishing nets on marine life.
- Consulted with the public to develop a **Draft Management Program for cycads**.
- Consulted with the public for the revision of the list of threatened species in the Northern Territory.
- Developed with Indigenous communities a pilot study to implement the international community-based SeagrassWatch program to monitor the status and health of intertidal seagrass beds in the Northern Territory.

- Developed a cane toad quarantine program in conjunction with Perkins Shipping to prevent incursions onto offshore islands.
- Trained Indigenous community groups from Maningrida, Port Keats and Gove to set traps and capture problem crocodiles in their local areas.
- Involved school children and the community in establishing a biodiversity monitoring program in parks and other areas around Darwin.
- Introduced children from Maningrida High School to crocodile management and problem crocodile handling.
- Educated the Katherine community through pamphlets and information sheets about the importance and value of flying foxes in their natural environment.
- Supported community wildlife rescue and care groups in providing a wildlife rescue service in Alice Springs, Katherine and Darwin and Palmerston areas.

Land and Water Division

- Engaged with landholder groups such as the Katherine Water Advisory Committee, Roper River Landcare Group, Northern Territory Horticultural Association, Douglas Daly Progress Association, Victoria River District Conservation Association and land councils to provide information and understanding of the water, soil and vegetation resources relevant to their requirements.
- Provided Centrefarm Limited, a company established by the Central Land Council, with preliminary land and water assessments and extensive resource data information sets, maps and drawings in 23 priority locations in the southern region.

- Provided extensive water resource information for an Indigenous pastoral project in Central Australia which involves redeveloping pastoral enterprises on selected Aboriginal Pastoral Properties and Land Trust areas. Some of these areas are being leased to pastoralists and include the requirement to train and use local Aboriginal residents.

Natural Resource Management Division

- Formed the Katherine Water Advisory Committee from key community and industry stakeholder groups after a public call for expressions of interest to advise on the development of the Katherine Tindal Water Allocation Plan.
 - Conducted an extensive consultation process with the community in the Darwin Rural area to advise of the need to monitor water extraction from household bores for the Darwin and Daly River Bore Metering Project. This involved 130 landholders who volunteered to have meters installed on their bores in 2007-08.
 - Appointed the Daly River Management Advisory Committee, made up of community and industry representatives, to provide advice on the management of native vegetation and water resources in the Daly River Region. During 2006-07 the Agency provided the Committee with secretariat and logistical support to conduct four meetings including farm visits and community forums in the region.
 - Conducted extensive consultation with key stakeholders throughout the Territory to review the *Pastoral Land Act 1992*.
 - Consulted with Traditional Owners and members of the Charles Darwin University Anmatyerr Water Project team to learn about environmental and cultural values of water in the Ti Tree region.
- Worked with pastoralists to provide the Pastoral Land Board with a comprehensive view on the condition of the Territory's rangelands. This involved implementing integrated tier one and tier two monitoring programs with pastoral landholders to provide a comprehensive system utilising remote sensing and ground based monitoring complementary remote methodologies.
 - Steered the development of the Weed Risk Assessment process and subsequent input into the Northern Territory declared weed species list with the Northern Territory Weed Risk Management Reference Group. This was comprised of industry and community representatives and technical experts from the Agency.
 - Conducted an extensive program to raise awareness of bushfire risks and management, including: media, displays on the Northern Territory show circuit including Borroloola and Adelaide River Shows, meetings with Volunteer Bushfire Brigades and face to face engagement with individual landholders.

Output Group: Environment Protection, Heritage Conservation

Environment and Heritage Division

- Supported the Environment Protection Agency Board in consulting with the Northern Territory community about the form and function of a new Territory Environment Protection Authority.
- Consulted with the community, in partnership with the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee about the beneficial uses, listed by the *Water Act*, for the waters in Darwin Harbour and its catchment through the Aquatic Health Unit.
- Presented a series of public information sessions around the Territory, in partnership with the Bureau of Meteorology, about climate change and its potential impact in the Northern Territory.
- Undertook a community based research program with public participation on the *Booya* shipwreck in Darwin Harbour to map the wreck site and document associated marine life.
- Provided funding of \$269 960 to 34 community environment projects and provided operational support of \$200 000 to five organisations through the promoted 2006-07 *EnvironmentNT Grants Program*.
- Administered the Cool Community program and supported related awareness raising events such as CoolCommuter day.
- Sponsored YouthLEAD workshops for young people with the Northern Territory Government Office of Youth Affairs, aimed at increasing the capacity of young people to be involved in environmental issues and to lead community change.
- Held a public forum with Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines on the development of a national greenhouse gas emissions trading scheme.
- Supported Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee and Agency participation in the World Environment Day Expo, held in Darwin.

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

Arts and Museums Division

- Hosted the United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation funded Museum to Museum Program for staff of the proposed Timor Leste National Museum and local (Darwin) Timorese community members.
- Collaborated with members of the Mok Clan Estate (Arnhem) in the development of the *Ankung Kunred - Wild Honey Country DVD* for launch during 2007-08.
- Entered 17 separate agreements between the Strehlow Research Centre and Traditional Owners throughout 2006-07 to store approximately 90 sacred objects on behalf of their Aboriginal Owners.
- Entered funding agreements with 25 key arts organisations, including three major festivals and two venues, plus a further 21 regional and remote festivals for arts and cultural activities.
- Undertook information exchanges and grant information and consultation sessions with the arts sector in Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Pine Creek.
- Facilitated and supported consultations from Darwin key arts organisations as part of the Northern Territory Government's *Creating Darwin's Future* consultations.
- Supported and promoted the Youth Week video competition by informing schools across the Northern Territory about the competition and designed and distributed posters to schools that promoted Youth Week.

Our People



Human Resources

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

The Agency's Human Resources Services Branch has responsibility for facilitating effective workplace leadership of employees by providing a People Management Framework supported by relevant and effective policies and procedures. The goal is to ensure the Agency has the right number of employees with the right skills, and has a workplace culture that will ensure the Agency is positioned to meet its business requirements now and into the future. The Branch also provides specialist advice to management and employees on a range of people management issues. The Branch further supports the Agency in achieving its business outcomes by ensuring it operates within the appropriate legislative frameworks.

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

Our People Snapshot

In 2006-07:

- 921 people were employed with the Agency and located in 50 sites across the Territory, in the major centres of Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Darwin and at a variety of remote ranger stations.
- 65 per cent of Agency staff were employed in the Technical and Professional streams, 26 per cent in the Administrative stream and the remaining 9 per cent in the Physical, Executive and Trainee streams.
- Almost half of the Agency, 46 per cent, was aged between 31 and 45 years old.
- Females represented 49 per cent of Agency employees, while males represented 51 per cent.
- Key initiatives implemented included a People Management Framework, a Personal Work Plan system, Agency Culture survey and workshops, and development of the *Strategic Objectives 2007-2014* document.
- Agency corporate training initiatives attracted 389 employee attendances, with sessions held in Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine and Alice Springs.
- Expenditure on learning and development totalled \$659 457, which averaged out to \$716 per employee.
- 2 employees graduated from the Public Sector Management Program.
- 6 employees from remote areas won scholarships through the Northern Territory Government's Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment's *Remote Workforce Development Strategy*.

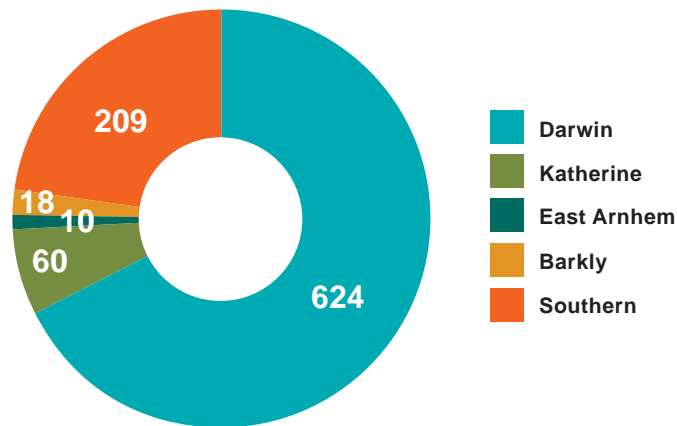
- An Agency specific Draft Indigenous Employment and Career Development Action Plan was endorsed by the Executive Leadership Group.
- 17 adult apprentices were employed, including 13 Indigenous apprentices.
- 2 Indigenous cadets were employed.
- 3 graduate trainees were employed – two completed the program, the third remains in the program.
- 9 school based apprentices were employed or hosted by the Agency.
- 22 employees have formal Work Life Balance agreements through negotiation with the Agency.
- 2 places were secured on the course, Springboard - A Development Program for Women, and 10 employees completed the Discovery Women as Leaders program.
- 5 face-to-face induction programs were conducted in the Darwin region.
- The Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Census resulted in approximately 77 per cent of employees recording their EEO details in the Personnel Integrated Pay System, a 9 per cent increase from the last Census.
- 50 accident and injury reports were received, of which 30 resulted in a claim for workers compensation. A total of \$565 149.88 was spent on these and existing open claims.
- 1 industrial action was taken against the Agency and settled with no admission of liability by the Northern Territory Government.
- 108 employees and their family members accessed the Agency's EAP program, with a total of 280 consultations provided.
- The Working Well Together (Code of Conduct and Values) program was delivered in Darwin, Palmerston, Berry Springs, Katherine and Alice Springs to 79 participants.

Our Staff

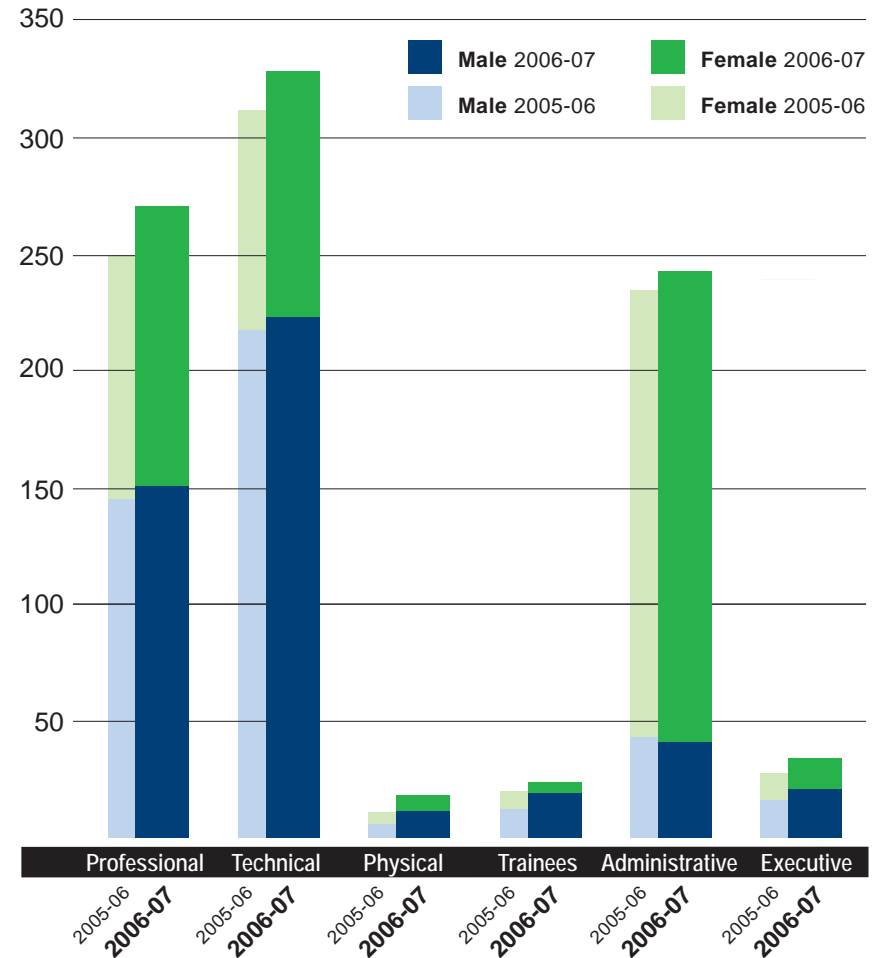
The Agency's wide ranging business functions means the employment base is made up of a diverse range of people with a broad spectrum of expertise and abilities. In 2006-07 there was 921 employees located in 50 sites across the Territory, in the major centres of Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Darwin and at a variety of remote ranger stations.

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

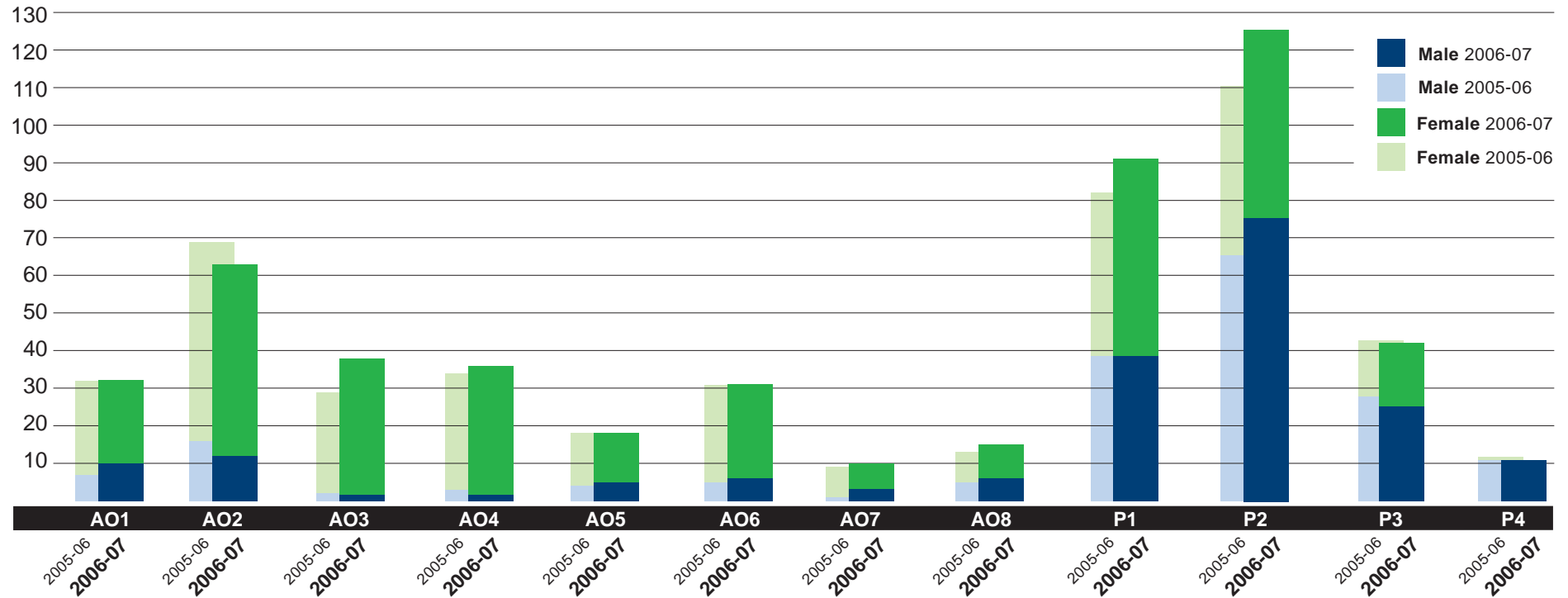
Employees by Region - Agency



Staff Stream Profile - Agency



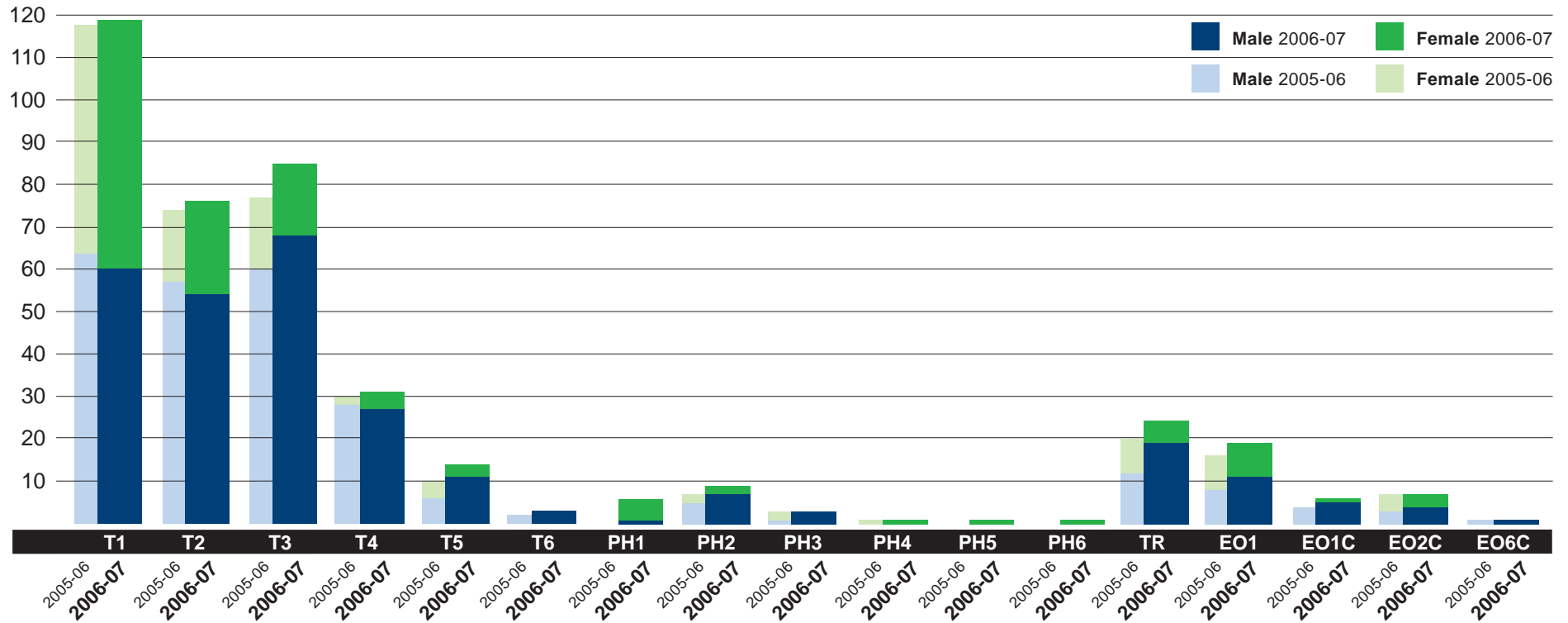
Staffing by Stream and Classification - Administrative and Professional - Agency



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

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

Staffing by Stream and Classification - Technical, Physical, Trainees, Executive - Agency



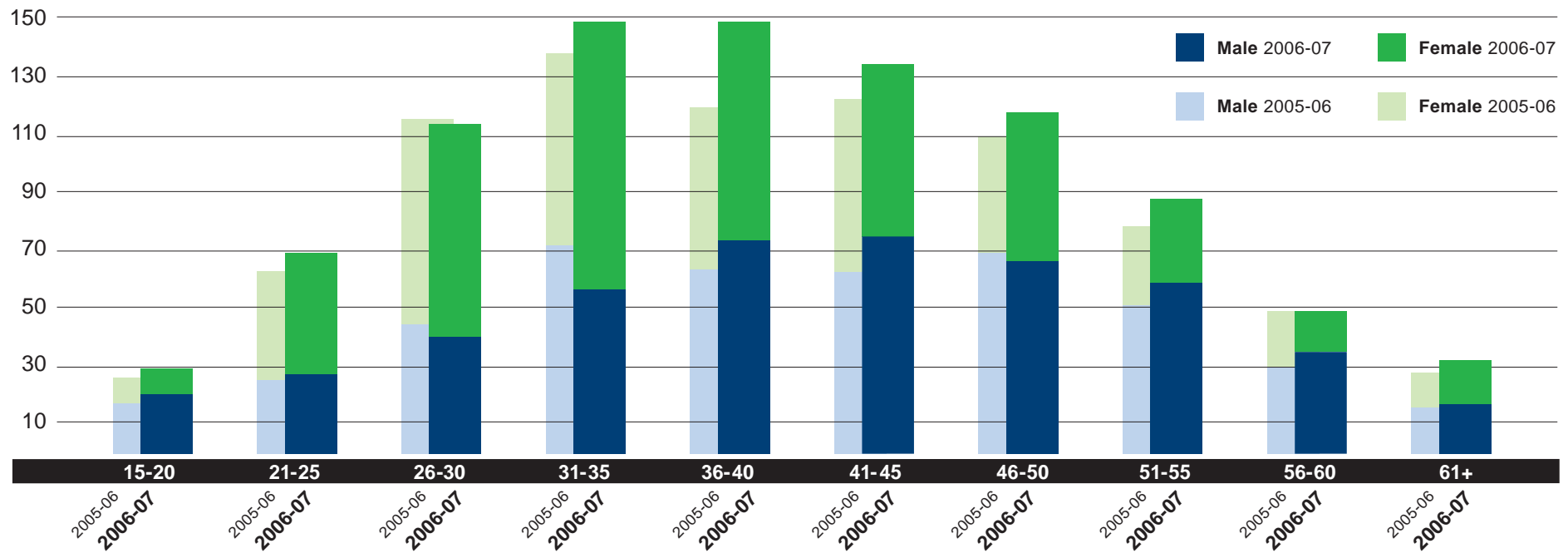
Technical Stream Occupations: Bore/Drill Test Officer, Ranger, Wildlife Officer, Facilities Management Officer, Natural Resource Management Officer (eg weed, soil, landcare), Bushfire Control Officer, Hydrologist, Cartographer/Mapping Officer, Horticulturalist, Interpretative/Education Officer, Zoo Keeper,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

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

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

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

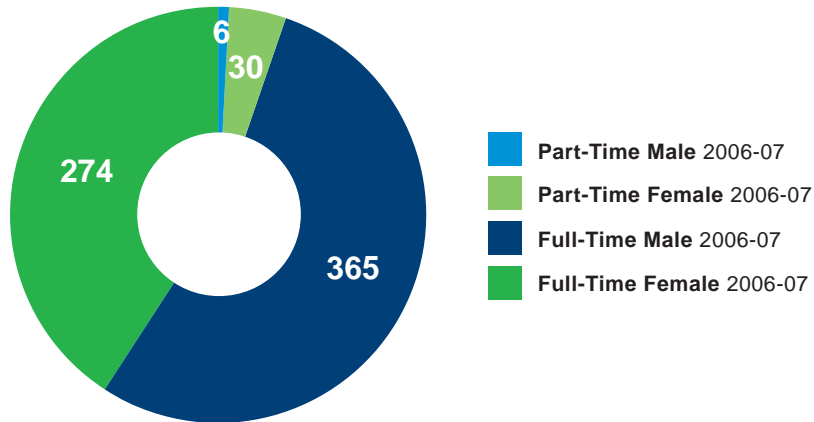
Staffing by Age - Agency



In 2006-07:

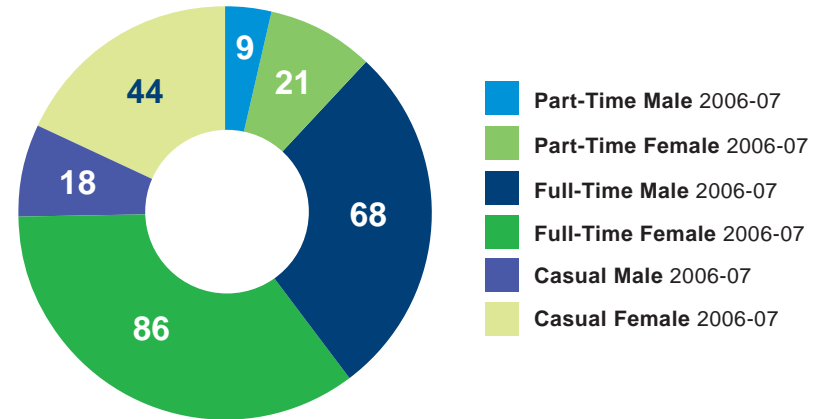
- There was a wide representation of ages in the Agency, however almost half of employees (46 per cent), were in the 31 to 45 year old age bracket.
- Employees aged 51 years or older totalled 168 in number, and represented nearly a fifth of the Agency (18 per cent).
- In the 21 to 40 year old age bracket there were more females (59 per cent) than males (41 per cent).
- However in the 41 to 61+ year old age bracket this trend was reversed, with males representing 60 per cent of staff in this bracket compared to 40 per cent for females.

Staffing by Employment Status - Agency - Permanent



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

Staffing by Employment Status - Agency - Temporary



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

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

Key Initiatives Implemented

People Management Framework

In 2005-06, the Agency's first year of operation, the focus was on establishing essential support structures, particularly management reporting formats. The 2006-07 reporting period focussed on refining those strategies, as well as identifying the initiatives, policies and procedures for development during 2006-07.

Part of the year's work involved updating the Agency's employee intranet site. This was critical as employee feedback clearly indicated the 'people information' pages needed to be more user friendly and this was accomplished.

The following policies were identified and prioritised for development and introduction in 2006-07 to build the Agency's People Management Framework:

- Grievance Policy, Grievance Procedure and Grievance Flowchart
- Anti-bullying Policy, Anti-bullying Procedure, Anti-bullying Flowchart, Fact Sheet for Managers – Anti-bullying, Fact Sheet for Employees – Anti-bullying, Self-assessment Checklist – Am I A Bully? and Self-assessment Checklist – Am I Being Bullied?
- Probation Policy
- Complaints Handling Policy, Complaints Handling Procedure, Complaints Flowchart and Sample Complaints Form
- Outside Employment Policy, Outside Employment Flowchart, Fact Sheet for Managers - Outside Employment
- Leave Without Pay Policy
- Guidelines for Recognising Milestones and Achievements.

The documents were published on the employee Intranet site for use following feedback from the Agency's senior managers.

Personal Work Plan

The Agency commenced drafting new policy and supporting documents for managing employee performance and development through a Personal Work Plan system. Following feedback from the Agency's senior managers these documents will undergo further refinement before being introduced across the Agency during 2007-08. Work also commenced on a Work Experience Policy which will be finalised during 2007-08.

Developing Agency Culture

In 2005-06 work commenced, in conjunction with the Executive Leadership Group (ELG), to develop a culture survey across the Agency. This survey was conducted through focus groups held with employees across the Northern Territory by the ELG. In 2006-07 work was undertaken to support the ELG to identify and group the employee feedback themes and prioritise actions in response to the culture survey and focus groups conducted in 2005-06. Work to date has included developing and facilitating the Communicating With Impact workshops as well as focusing on organisational leadership. This has involved the ELG developing and testing models of organisational development and leadership as the first steps in creating a detailed three year plan for the Agency's leadership program.

Additionally, the ELG established the Agency's Senior Managers Forum, where senior staff can openly discuss issues with the ELG, and be involved in presentations and learning on Agency leadership. This forum will meet once every six months to continue to build the culture of the Agency.

Strategic Objectives

In this reporting period a major initiative was the release of the Agency's *Strategic Objectives 2007-2014* which was rolled out to employees through a series of workshops facilitated by the Chief Executive across the Territory. The workshops were designed to build understanding, initially of the draft plan, as well as gather feedback for its refinement before its release as a final document in June 2007.

Learning and Professional Development

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

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

In 2006-07 there were 389 employee attendances in Agency corporate training initiatives, with sessions held in Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine and Alice Springs. The initiatives included:

- Recruitment – Employee Selection Training - designed to provide supervisors and managers with the skills to select, induct and retain a skilled workforce.
- Recruitment – Chairperson Training - designed to provide the selection panel Chairperson with specific skills required to chair a selection panel effectively.
- Growing Your Own...Building Mentoring Capacity - designed to provide participants with the skills required to be a good mentor.
- It's your Move: You and Your Career - designed to assist individuals plan their own career changes and transitions, identify personal and professional goals and aspirations.
- Team Management – Building High Energy Teams - designed to build effective teams and behaviours and conduct business planning processes. The training program also uses the Team Management System tool to support the training by developing an understanding about self and other team members working styles.
- Working Well Together - Code of Conduct and Values - designed to enhance employees knowledge of ethical business practices and to provide practical strategies for dealing with situations that arise at work. This workshop draws on the *Northern Territory Public Sector (NTPS) Principles and Code of Conduct*, as set out in Regulations under the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, as the source document which sets out the conduct expected of all Northern Territory Public Service employees and the values they are obliged to uphold.
- Communicating with Impact - designed to enhance and foster effective communication within teams and the organisation, including enhancing listening skills and effective use of language and feedback.
- Clear Writing - designed to develop writing skills, through topics such as: overcoming the fear of starting, writing more quickly and efficiently, being understood by your audience, drafting techniques and improving readability.
- How to write a Job Analysis Questionnaire - designed to develop skills for writing Job Analysis Questionnaire's and understanding the difference and link between Job Analysis Questionnaire's and Job Descriptions.
- Job Evaluation System - designed to develop the skills to assess the work value of a particular job relative to other jobs.
- Job Evaluation System Refresher - designed for refresh accredited Job Evaluation System Evaluators.

Learning and Development Expenditure

Core business driven employee development during 2006-07 continued to be encouraged through attendances at conferences, seminars and workshops on topics ranging from Geographic Information System training, chemical handling, climate change to drilling.

Core business and corporate training expenditure is identified in the table below. It does not include the Agency's commitment to its study assistance program which is reported separately.

	2005-06 Agency	2006-07 Agency	2005-06 Territory Wildlife Parks - GBD	2006-07 Territory Wildlife Parks - GBD
Total employees (actual headcount number) (a)	852	921	105	122
Total learning and development expenditure	\$410 675	\$659 457	\$47 951	\$21 987
Total employee expenditure (b)	\$52 402 521	\$55 450 000	\$5 358 810	\$5 761 000
Learning and development costs as a percentage of employee expenditure	0.78%	1.19%	0.89%	0.40%
Training expenditure per employee (c)	\$482	\$716	\$456	\$180

Notes

(a) Includes full-time, part-time and casual employees

(b) Includes Trainees expenditure

(c) A large portion of the training attended by Territory Wildlife Parks Government Business Division employees this year centred on the uptake of corporately funded programs, including Team Management - Building High Energy Teams, Communicating with Impact and Cross Cultural Awareness. In addition, the Territory Wildlife Parks Government Business Division was able to deliver core business training activities with minimal, and in some cases, no direct expense through its membership of national and international bodies. For example a staff member was released to attend curatorial training in the United States and another to attend a training workshop in relation to their Raptor Rehabilitation Churchill Fellowship also in the United States. At a local level, for example 15 staff undertook small population genetic management statistical software training provided by the Australasian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria. The Alice Springs Desert Park hosted the Australian Government's Environmental Education Centres Summit designed to establish partnerships with all relevant institutions. Three staff were involved in all sessions of the summit with a number of other staff attending specific sessions.

Public Sector Management Program

During 2006-07 two employees graduated from the Public Sector Management Program and a further two employees are due to complete their program requirements in 2007-08.

Scholarships

Six employees from remote areas won scholarships through the Northern Territory Government's Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment's Remote Workforce Development Strategy, to undertake further studies or attend interstate training conferences in line with their career aspirations. The six scholarships totalled \$10 273.00

Studies Assistance

Forty-two employees accessed Northern Territory Government Studies Assistance during 2006-07 to undertake studies ranging from certificates to masters programs. The Agency strongly supports employees gaining relevant professional and technical skills through higher education studies. Of the 42 employees accessing studies assistance, 28 received financial assistance and were reimbursed at an average rate of \$2 619.36 per employee.

Professional 1/Professional 2 Progression Scheme

In 2006-07 the positions identified under the Professional 1 (P1)/ Professional 2 (P2) Progression Scheme increased to eight.

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 do not provide the level of expertise required to immediately perform at the P2 level.

Future Priorities

The Agency is responsible for administering 42 pieces of legislation, most of which contain provisions for prosecution of non-compliance. To assist the Agency to meet its law enforcement functions, 62 employees (32 from remote areas), were enrolled to commence a Certificate IV in Government (Investigations) during 2007-08.

This is a specialised course developed through the Australian Environmental Law Enforcement Regulators Network of which the Agency is a member. The course is designed to meet the needs of law enforcement officers including rangers, scientists, bushfire control officers and environment protection employees. The course aligns with the Agency's *Strategic Objectives 2007-2014* and also with the Northern Territory Government's desire to strengthen environmental protection in the Northern Territory. It is proposed the course will be delivered on a rolling basis over the next few years, to ensure all Agency employees involved in environmental law enforcement are trained to maximise positive outcomes for the community and the environment in these areas.

During 2007-08 the Agency will identify and prioritise work initiatives to continue to strengthen its People Management Framework. This will include re-working the revised policy and supporting documents for managing employee performance and development through a personal work plan system. In addition, a priority will be identifying the capabilities needed to effectively manage and lead employees, which will also provide managers with a more effective approach to self identify their development needs.

Trainees

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

Apprenticeships

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

In 2006-07 the Agency employed or hosted nine school-based apprentices, all of whom were Indigenous. One school-based apprentice completed their apprenticeship and is currently employed in a temporary full-time role. Three school-based apprentices resigned through the year and five are continuing with their apprenticeships.

A total of 17 adult apprentices were employed in 2006-07, including 13 Indigenous apprentices. Four apprentices successfully completed the program, with one of these apprentices currently employed within the Agency, while the remaining three moved elsewhere for personal reasons. One apprentice's contract was terminated through abandonment of employment and 12 adult apprentices are continuing their employment with the Agency.

Indigenous Cadets

The National Indigenous Cadetship Program is an initiative which offers financial support and work experience opportunities for Indigenous people engaged in tertiary studies. In 2006-07 the Agency employed two Indigenous cadets, one is currently employed full-time and the other is continuing with their studies.

Graduate Trainees

The Graduate Traineeship Program provides recent university graduates with a broad range of workplace experiences and challenges to equip them to become future leaders and managers. In 2006-07 three graduate trainees were employed. Two graduates successfully completed the program and both have obtained work in other sectors of the Northern Territory Public Service, while the third remains in the program.

Career Expos

The Agency participated in career expos around the Territory and an Indigenous specific expo held at Taminmin High School, Humpty Doo.

Work Experience Students

The Agency officially hosted 16 work experience students who were participating in university-based programs or school-based work-ready programs. Some placements were for four weeks and required a high degree of commitment and supervision from Agency employees in supporting and guiding the students through requirements of their particular program.

Vacation Employment Students

The vacation employment program allows tertiary students to gain hands-on experience in the workplace during holiday periods. During the reporting period nine students were employed by the Agency during the mid-year and Christmas holiday periods.

Employee and Agency Achievements

In 2006-07 the Agency and its employees, through their work, have been recognised for Agency and individual awards. Additionally, many employees have performed keynote speaking opportunities, a reflection of their experience and expertise.

Individual Awards

Biological Parks Division

- Chansey Paech, Alice Springs Desert Park Apprentice Horticulturist, was awarded 2006 Group Training Northern Territory's Apprentice of the Year (Stage 2) and Charles Darwin University's Most Outstanding Student and Most Outstanding Student in Primary Industries and Science.
- Matthew Turner, Alice Springs Desert Park Guide, was awarded 2006 Group Training Northern Territory's Trainee of the Year and 2006 Charles Darwin University's Outstanding Tourism Apprentice.
- Renate Johnny, Alice Springs Desert Park Guide, was awarded 2006 Central Australian Tourism Industry Association – Most Outstanding VET in schools student – Tourism.
- Alison Beckwith, Animal Records Officer, was awarded 2006 Rotary International's Shine On award for contributions to the Territory Wildlife Park and local community.

Biodiversity Conservation Division

- Dr Michael Braby was awarded a prize by the Entomological Society of Japan, for best scientific paper published in their international journal, Entomological Science.

Natural Resource Management Division

- Kate Hadden, an Agency employee, was awarded the 2007 McKell Medal, which recognises excellence and achievement in natural resource management in Australia. Kate received this national award while on secondment to the Tiwi Land Council as an Environmental Officer.

Agency Awards

Whole of Agency

- Winner of the Northern Territory Public Sector Annual Report Awards' Overall Winner for the reporting year 2005-06, conducted by the Institute of Public Administration Australia, Northern Territory Division.
- Winner of the Northern Territory Public Sector Annual Report Awards' Best Communication of Corporate Governance for the reporting year 2005-06, conducted by the Institute of Public Administration Australia, Northern Territory Division.

Parks Division

- The West MacDonnell National Park was recognised as the Northern Territory's Park of the Decade, by the World Wildlife Fund, based on biological criteria as assessed by an expert panel.
- Dhimurru Indigenous Protected Area *Both Ways Management* won the Indigenous Community Development category and was highly commended in the Regional and Remote Development category at the Chief Minister's Awards.
- *Progressive Joint Management in Partnerships with Indigenous People of the Katherine Region* won the Regional and Remote Development category and was commended in the Indigenous Community Development at the Chief Minister's Awards.
- *Flexible Employment Program* in southern region Parks was highly commended for Indigenous Community Development Category at the Chief Minister's Awards.

Scholarships, Fellowships and PhD's

Arts and Museums Division

- Joanna Barrkman, Curator Southeast Asian Art and Material Culture, was awarded a 12 week Arts Management residency in Yogyakarta Indonesia under the Asialink program (an Australian initiative of the University of Melbourne and the Myer Foundation). This was to research and document the historical batik motifs of the Imogiri batik artisans of the royal court of Yogyakarta.
- Franchesca Cubillo, Senior Curator of Aboriginal Art and Material Culture, at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, was awarded the Winston Churchill Memorial Fellowship.

Biological Parks Division

- Melissa Merry from the Territory Wildlife Park undertook a Churchill Fellowship for raptor rehabilitation in the United States and Canada.

Biodiversity Conservation Division

- Dr John Woinarski and Dr Karen Edyvane were appointed as Adjunct Professorial Fellows at Charles Darwin University.
- Damian Milne, Brooke Rankmore and Catherine Nano successfully completed their PhDs.

Natural Resource Management Division

- Keith Ferdinands, Weed Management Branch, successfully completed a PhD assessing the threat posed by an invasive African grass *urochloa mutica (forssk) nguyen* in the Mary River wetlands, Northern Territory.
- Michelle Kassman, Weed Management Branch, was awarded a scholarship under the Remote Area Workforce Strategy to undertake Women in Business.

Keynote Speaking Opportunities

Arts and Museums Division

Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory

- Dr Helen Larson, Curator Fishes, Keynote speaker at the Australia New Guinea Fishes Convention, Darwin.
- Mr Paul Clark, Curator Maritime Archaeology and History:
 - guest speaker in the National Museum of Australia's History Mysteries Youth Challenge Program;
 - presented conference papers at the joint annual conference of the 'Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology' and the 'Australian Society for Historical Archaeology', Darwin; and
 - presented conference papers at the annual Australian National University, Charles Darwin University and Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory History Colloquium, Darwin.
- Dr Mickey Dewar, Curator Territory History, presented a paper at the Museums Australia National Conference, Canberra.
- Ms Joanna Barrkman, Curator Southeast Asian Art and Material Culture, presented a lecture at the Art Gallery of NSW as part of the Asian Art Lecture series and also conducted lectures at Charles Darwin University for students of the Foundations of Southeast Asian Art Course.
- Dr Peter Murray, Assistant Director Museum of Central Australia, and Dirk Megirian, Curator Geology, presented a paper at the 11th conference on Australasian Vertebrate Evolution, Palaeontology and Systemics.

Northern Territory Film Office

- Penelope McDonald, Director Northern Territory Film Office, spoke at the Creative Citizenship Symposium, Charles Darwin University.

Arts NT

- Stephanie Hawkins, Manager of the Indigenous Arts Development Unit, addressed the Desert Art Centres Conference on plans for the next three years of Indigenous Arts Strategy 2006 - 2009.

Environment and Heritage Division

- Paul Purdon provided a keynote address on “The pervasive impacts of climate change on the wet and dry tropics” to the Northern Australia Water Use Summit, December 2006.

Biodiversity Conservation Division

- Dr John Woinarski was invited to give the Allan Sefton Memorial Lecture, University of Wollongong, September 2006.

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:

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

Work Life Balance Planning

The Agency is committed to assisting its employees achieve a balance between the needs of the Agency and their personal life under the whole of government employment strategy, Work Life Balance. A number of different arrangements have been negotiated across the Agency:

- One T1 is job sharing two days a week
- One T1 has re-negotiated work hours around childcare
- One T1 is working three days a week for three months
- Two T1 employees at the Territory Wildlife Park work part-time (60% and 70%)
- Two T1 employees at the Territory Wildlife Park job-share (50% each)
- One T1 and one T2 have re-negotiated work hours to 0700 to 1530
- Five T1 and two T2 employees have rotating rosters

- The Territory Wildlife Park guides generally work either an early (0800 to 1630) or late (0930 to 1800) shift
- One T2 is working Monday to Thursday 0830 to 1700 and Sunday 0830 to 1430
- One T3 has renegotiated work hours to include two 7 hour days in one week and two 9 hour days in the following week
- One AO1 was temporarily rostered on the weekend at the Territory Wildlife Park
- Two employees are job-sharing – one AO5 is working two days a week and one AO5 is working three days a week
- One P1 is working four days a week for a period of 18 months
- One P2 is working three days a weeks
- One P3 has flexible working hours.

In addition to supporting the government's Work Life Balance strategy through flexible work practices the Human Resources Services Branch provided superannuation and retirement seminars, designed to assist employees understand and plan for their financial future. Sessions were held in Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine and Alice Springs. Additionally, employee access was provided to Money Skills in Katherine and Alice Springs. This program is designed to provide participants with better skills to manage their personal finances for life.

Indigenous Employment and Career Development

The Agency is committed to improving Indigenous career outcomes and to progress this strategy in 2006-07, an Agency specific Draft Indigenous Employment and Career Development Action Plan was endorsed by the Executive Leadership Group. This resulted in nominations being called from all Agency employees to form an Indigenous Reference Group. These nominations are being considered and the Group is to be formed and given the responsibility for implementing the Indigenous Employment and Career Development Action Plan in 2007-08.

The Plan was supported through various activities throughout the year, including the provision of cross cultural awareness sessions in Darwin and Alice Springs, encouragement for employees to attend Indigenous mentoring workshops and the training of supervisors. Recruitment activities were also undertaken as part of the Agency's commitment to 'growing our own' by utilising training programs, such as school-based and adult apprenticeships to develop future rangers, natural resource managers and bushfire control officers.

Apprentices

In 2006-07 the Agency employed or hosted nine school-based apprentices, all of whom were Indigenous. One school-based apprentice completed their apprenticeship and is currently employed in a temporary full-time role. Three school-based apprentices resigned through the year and five are continuing with their apprenticeships.

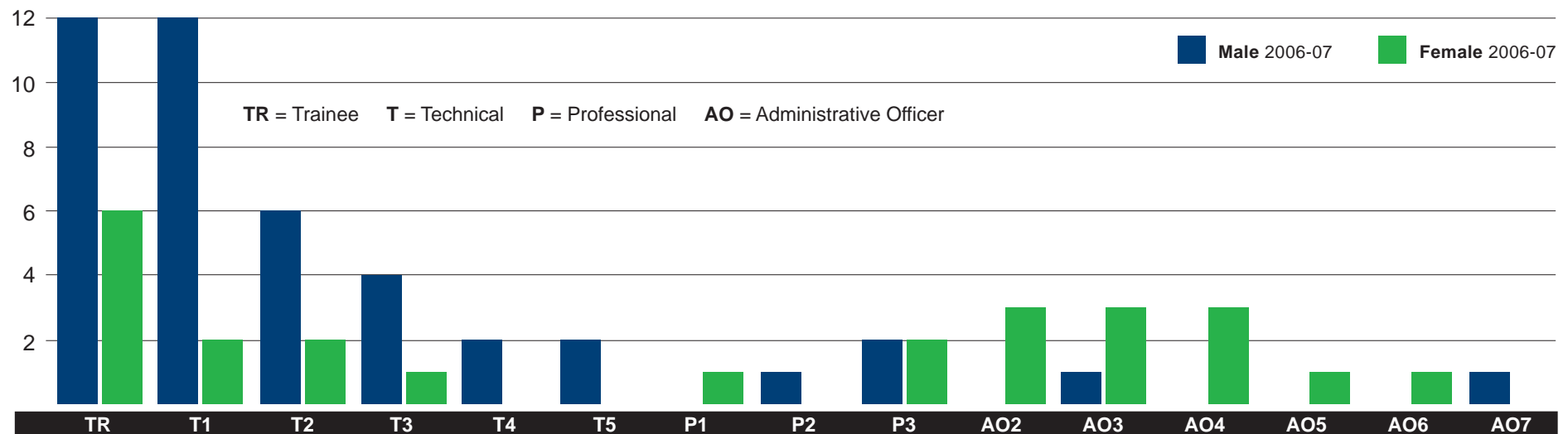
Thirteen Indigenous adult apprentices were employed within the Agency during the reporting period. Nine were employed in the Biological Parks Division (Territory Wildlife Park and Alice Springs Desert Park), three were employed within the Parks Division and one was employed within the Biodiversity Conservation Division.

One apprentice's contract was terminated because of abandonment of employment and two successfully completed the program but have chosen to move elsewhere for work at this time. Ten Indigenous adult apprentices are continuing their employment with the Agency.

Two Indigenous cadets were employed, one is currently employed full-time and the other is continuing with their studies.

One Indigenous graduate trainee successfully completed the program and has continued their employment within the public sector.

Staff Identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander - Agency



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

Women in Leadership Management

The Agency actively supports the whole of government initiative Women in Leadership and Management. Places are sought on the whole of government program and Agency participant nominations are actively sought. The programs supported in 2006-07 were:

- Springboard - A Development Program for Women is designed to provide female employees up to the AO5/6 or equivalent level with skills to decide on the steps, and to take those next steps for their development. The Agency secured two places on the course offered in 2006-07. Two employees were approved and one employee completed the program. The course includes how to differentiate between a mentor, coach and a manager; applying the fundamentals of teamwork; solving problems using different communication types; interpreting the effects of change in the workplace and learning how to employ methods of balancing work and home.
- The Northern Territory Public Sector Discovery Women as Leaders program is designed to assist women develop greater confidence (including confidence in valuing their own backgrounds and cultures), learn leadership skills and build valuable support and business networks. Five places were secured on each of the two courses offered in 2006-07 and 10 employees completed the program. Learning outcomes are designed to provide participants with a high level of personal awareness in order to have the confidence and capability to lead, mentor and coach others in complex and challenging environments. This is achieved through learning about self awareness and personal effectiveness, and achievement through teams and strategic leadership.

Reporting Against Employment Instructions Snapshot

In 2006-07:

- 128 employees were working on a part-time basis or casual. Of these, 95 were female and 33 were male.
- There were 237 commencements, comprising 35 permanent and 202 temporary commencements.
- No new actions were commenced under Inability to Discharge Duties, however the action that commenced against one employee in 2005-06 resulted in termination of employment.
- 3 Discipline actions commenced with one resulting in an investigation. Of the one action that commenced in 2005-06 and was ongoing, a breach of discipline was found.
- 2 Grievances were received, one in Alice Springs and one in Darwin.
- An Agency specific Occupational Health and Safety DVD was developed and used for the induction program.
- The Working Well Together (Code of Conduct and Values) program was delivered in Darwin, Palmerston, Berry Springs, Katherine and Alice Springs to 79 participants.

Reporting Against Employment Instructions

Employment Instruction and Agency Requirement	Agency Action
<p>No 1. Advertising, Selection, Appointment, Transfer and Promotion Agency to develop procedures on recruitment and selection for internal use. Chief Executive required to report annually on the number of employees in each designation and variations since the last report.</p>	<p>Recruitment policy and pro-forma documentation is available on the Agency's intranet.</p> <p>During the reporting period the Agency placed 215 positions (permanent, temporary and temporary vacancies of less than six months) through the Employment Opportunities Website as single or various positions vacant. This resulted in 237 commencements, comprising 35 permanent commencements and 202 temporary commencements.</p> <p>There was no promotion appeals lodged with the Northern Territory Government's Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment during 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 for managers and is also where new employees are directed on their commencement.</p> <p>The Human Resources Services Branch provided regular reports to senior management on the status of employee 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. Chief Executive shall develop and implement performance management systems for their Agency.</p>	<p>Performance Management documentation is available on the Agency's Intranet.</p> <p>Employees participated in performance agreement processes as a mechanism to seek constructive feedback. This involved employees discussing with their manager work plans, skill gaps, careers plans, mentoring and/or training to meet individual and work unit goals.</p>
<p>No 5. Medical Incapacity No Agency action or reporting requirements.</p>	<p>Advice is provided to managers as required by the Human Resources Services Branch.</p>

Employment Instruction and Agency Requirement	Agency Action
<p>No 6. Inability to Discharge Duties Chief Executive to provide the Northern Territory Government's Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment with information on the extent to which this employment instruction has been used by the Agency. Chief Executive may establish procedures regarding this employment instruction within their Agency.</p>	<p>No new actions were commenced in 2006-07 under Section 44 Inability to Discharge Duties. The action commenced against one employee in 2005-06 resulted in termination of employment in 2006-07.</p>
<p>No 7. Discipline Chief Executive to provide the Northern Territory Government's Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment with information on the extent to which this employment instruction has been used by the Agency. Chief Executive may establish procedures regarding discipline within their Agency.</p>	<p>Under Section 49 Discipline three new actions were commenced against employees in 2006-07 with one resulting in an investigation.</p> <p>Of the one action that commenced in 2005-06 and was ongoing in 2006-07, a breach of discipline was found.</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>Grievance policy documentation is available on the Agency's Intranet. Two Section 59 Grievances were received during 2006-07, one in Alice Springs and one in Darwin. In one case the Agency's action was confirmed and the other case is still open as 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 Northern Territory Government Department of Corporate and Information Services on behalf of the Agency. Access to personnel files and the Personnel Integrated Pay System database is restricted to an 'in-confidence' level.</p>
<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. Details of programs are provided earlier in this section of the report.</p>

Employment Instruction and Agency Requirement	Agency Action
<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>Occupational Health and Safety Program 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' Occupation Health and Safety unit.</p> <p>Occupational Health and Safety training is part of the Agency's Induction program. This training now also includes an Agency specific Occupational Health and Safety DVD, as outlined under the Agency's Induction Program on page 99.</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>New employees are provided with a copy of the Code of Conduct booklet as part of their commencement package. All employees have access to the electronic version of the Code of Conduct booklet via the Northern Territory Government Intranet.</p> <p>The Working Well Together (Code of Conduct and Values) program was delivered in Darwin, Palmerston, Berry Springs, Katherine and Alice Springs to 79 participants. The program is designed to enhance people's knowledge of ethical business practices and to provide practical strategies for dealing with situations that arise at work. The workshop draws on the Northern Territory Public Sector Principles and Code of Conduct as the source document which sets out the conduct expected of all Northern Territory Public Sector employees and the values they are obliged to uphold.</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 2006-07, 128 employees were working on a part-time casual basis. Of these, 95 were female and 33 were male.</p>

Induction

A total of five face-to-face induction programs were conducted in 2006-07 in the Darwin region. Two of the programs were specifically for new executive starters. The induction program is now scheduled once every quarter to ensure all employees are able to participate in the program.

In 2006-07 two initiatives were developed to enhance the Induction program. A welcome pack for new employees was released on the Agency's Intranet, which provides specific information about the area they work in, for example the division structure and the location of notice boards to where mail is delivered. The second was the creation of an Agency specific Occupational Health and Safety DVD which is screened to raise awareness of safety issues across the Agency by highlighting the diversity of the work employees are engaged in on a daily basis.

Probation

Forty-five Agency employees were subject to probation. The outcomes were as follows:

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

Diversity

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

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

Equal Employment Opportunity

The Agency is committed to meeting its statutory equal employment obligations and to ensure fairness in relation to employment procedures. The Agency conducted its Equal Employment Opportunity Census in May 2007 resulting in approximately 77 per cent of employees recording their Equal Employment Opportunity details in the Personnel Integrated Pay System. This represents a 9 per cent increase from the last Census.

The May 2007 Census resulted in:

- 108 employees updating their Equal Employment Opportunity information;
- 37 employees entering Equal Employment Opportunity data for the first time; and
- an additional three employees identifying themselves as Indigenous.

The importance of calling for Equal Employment Opportunity data is to assist the Agency in developing workforce strategies, as well as enabling the Agency to support whole of government workforce strategies, including the reporting of Indigenous employment.

Occupational Health and Safety

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

The Agency utilised the following services:

- workplace and workstation inspections;
- hazard inspections;
- training courses;
- advice and assistance;
- policy and audit advice and recommendations; and
- compensation claims management.

The Northern Territory Department of Corporate and Information Services conducted an abbreviated management system audit for the Agency with a view to identifying risk areas and recommendations for the Executive Leadership Group to enable them to better direct Occupational Health and Safety resources in the 2007-08 reporting year. Carriage of this has been given to a member of the Agency's Executive Leadership Group.

In addition to the creation of the Agency specific Occupational Health and Safety DVD described under the Induction Program on page 99 the Agency arranged for flu vaccinations to be available for employees in Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine and Alice Springs. The number of employees who participated in the vaccination was 42 in 2006-07, double that of the previous year.

A total of 50 accident and injury reports were received in the reporting period, of which 30 resulted in a claim for workers compensation.

A total of \$565 149.88 was spent on these and existing open claims in 2006-07 which included settlement of a long running claim via a Hopkins Deed.

The Agency's early intervention program continued to result in a slight reduction in the number of compensation claims lodged for minor medical cost only injuries. During the reporting year the program was broadened to include preventative intervention strategies for non-physical injuries. Intervention strategies such as the use of counselling, mediation, and coaching were employed successfully to minimise the risk of potentially protracted compensation claims. The effectiveness of the program including the broader approach and reporting mechanisms will continue to be monitored and refined in 2007-08.

Type of Claim	2005-06 Number of Claims	2006-07 Number of Claims
Lost time Injuries	22	13
Medical Expenses Only	10	17
Total	32	30

Industrial Relations

There was one industrial action against the Agency in 2006-07. An industrial relations claim was brought in the Australian Industrial Relations Commission by an ex-employee on the grounds of harsh, unjust or unreasonable termination and/or discrimination or other prohibited reason following their resignation. The claim was settled at the first conciliation conference in June 2007 with no admission of liability by the Northern Territory Government.

As part of the *Northern Territory Public Sector 2004-07 Certified Agreement*, all Physical and Technical classification positions which had not been evaluated since 1 August 2002 were required to be reviewed by January 2007. Of the 371 Agency positions affected by the review, 351 positions required evaluation – 8 Physical and 343 Technical. 138 were completed, 180 were being processed to completion and 33 positions still required assessment at the end of the reporting period.

Performance Agreement 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.

Employee Assistance Program - Agency

The Agency has a formal Employee Assistance Program (EAP) with Employee Assistance Service NT Incorporated.

This is a confidential counselling service for employees and their family members seeking assistance with personal, family and workplace issues that may be affecting their work performance, productivity and wellbeing.

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

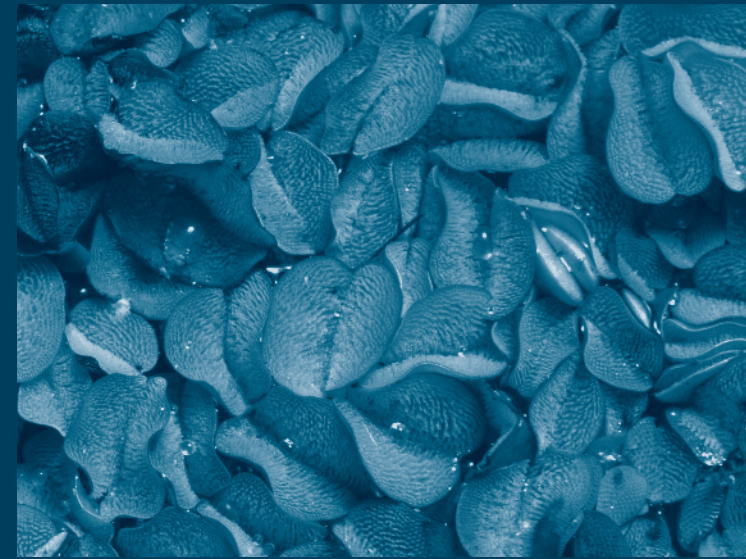
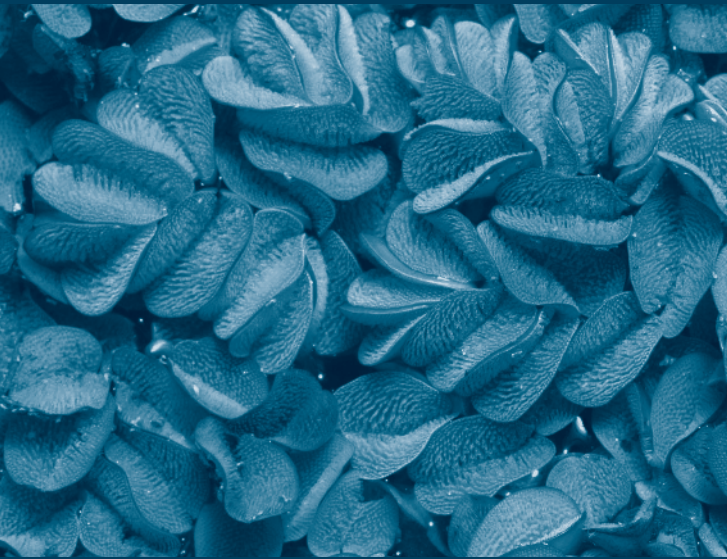
In 2006-07 108 employees and their family members accessed the Agency's EAP program with a total of 280 consultations provided.

Recognition of Long Service

Recognition of long service with the Northern Territory Government policy documentation was added to the Agency's Intranet in 2006-07. Official milestones are 10, 20 and 30 years continuous service with the Northern Territory Public Sector. An annual presentation will be held towards the end of each calendar year for those employees who achieve service milestones while still employed by the Agency.

However, if on retirement an employee has reached 10 or 20 years continuous service their recognition arrangements will be managed by the employing Agency Division and where 30 years of continuous service is reached the retiring employee will also receive a personally addressed letter from the Minister responsible for the Agency's ministerial portfolio.

Performance Reporting



Output Group: Parks and Reserves

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

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

There are three Outputs within this Output Group:

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

Output: Parks Joint Management Programs

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

The Performance Measures for this Output were changed for 2006-07, therefore no data from previous years is available for comparison.

Performance Measures Output: Parks Joint Management Programs		06-07 Estimate	06-07 Actual	07-08 Estimate
Quantity	Number of Joint Management Plans in force ⁽¹⁾	4	3	8
	Number of Joint Statements of Management Intent completed during the year ⁽²⁾	2	4	2
	Full-time Indigenous permanent staff ⁽³⁾	13%	12%	15%
Quality	Jointly managed parks covered by Joint Management Plans	12%	11%	25%
	Jointly managed parks covered by Joint Statements of Management Intent	6%	9%	6%

Notes

1. Planning has been a major focus of joint management however the pace of completing plans has been slow to ensure effective engagement and participation by the traditional Aboriginal owners of the Parks and Reserves. This has resulted in fewer completed plans but a greater number of plans being advanced to the stage equivalent to a Statement of Management Intent. It is envisaged these will convert to approved Joint Management Plans within the first half of the 2007-08 financial year.
2. Joint Statements of Management Intent are used to develop planning, operational and governance arrangements prior to the development of Joint Management Plans on the Scheduled Parks. They are used as a stepping stone to formal plans of management.
3. Indigenous full-time employment is a major outcome for the joint management output. The number of Indigenous employees when trainees, apprentices and full-time contract workers are included is 20 per cent of the total Park Division workforce. During 2007-08 many of the current trainees will complete their studies and transfer to full-time, permanent employment.

Key Achievements in 2006-07: Parks Joint Management Programs

- Developed flexible employment and training arrangements including formal traineeships, mature-age and school-based apprenticeships and job sharing arrangements to increase Indigenous employment outcomes.
- Created 11 new trainee and permanent Indigenous ranger positions through joint management.
- Obtained a level of 25 per cent (32 staff out of 133) of Indigenous field-based workforce in the Agency's Parks Division.
- Developed the Draft Joint Management Plan for Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve south east of Alice Springs, to the stage of seeking public comment.
- Finalised the Summary of Management Intent for Flora River Nature Park, near Katherine.
- Completed 86 Flexible Employment Program projects across southern region parks that involved:
 - 8306 participant hours (or approximately 1038 days work);
 - providing participants with more than \$65 690 in wages;
 - enabling more than 104 Traditional Owners to participate in field based job sharing projects including fencing, weed and feral animal management and a biodiversity survey; and
 - assessing participants as prospective employees, and assisting them in gaining skills which may be suitable for employment or contract opportunities.
- Upgraded the campground at Finke Gorge National Park, west of Alice Springs, with the local Indigenous ranger group contracted to install new bollards.
- Started the joint management planning process with Traditional Owner estate groups spanning the entire West MacDonnell National Park west of Alice Springs.
- Commenced consultation with the Traditional Owners for Adelaide River district parks.
- Employed five Traditional Owners, one mature-aged apprentice and one school-aged apprentice, in natural resource management in the Arnhem wetlands region.
- Developed Joint Management Plans for Flora River Nature Park near Katherine, and the Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve near Tennant Creek, to the stage of gaining final clearance from Traditional Owners prior to seeking broader public comment.
- Provided additional employment opportunities for Indigenous community-based ranger groups through fee for service contracts on parks which has resulted in contracts being let with:
 - Larrakia rangers in Darwin Parks;
 - Timber Creek rangers at Gregory National Park, south west of Katherine;
 - Julalikari rangers at Tennant Creek; and
 - Tjuwanpa rangers in Finke Gorge National Park, west of Alice Springs.
- Commenced a participatory monitoring and evaluation program for Flora River Nature Park, near Katherine, in co-operation with Traditional Owners and facilitated by Charles Darwin University researchers. This is the first time these techniques have been used in Australia to assess the effectiveness of jointly managed conservation areas.

- Involved Traditional Owners in the training for, and delivery of, the Territory Park's Alive program, where Traditional Owners are buddied up with more experienced Park rangers during activities. This provides an enhanced cultural perspective for the attending public and allow Traditional Owners to learn skills in working with tourists.
- Developed a joint management Internet page to highlight joint management activities and achievements.
- Expanded the joint management induction program for Park rangers and other staff involved in joint managed parks.
- Developed a draft policy on the management of cultural heritage on parks with operational guidelines to follow this year in co-operation with Aboriginal land councils.

Challenges in 2006-07: Parks Joint Management Programs

- Delivering a consistent level of engagement, planning and employment programs with Traditional Owners across a broad and varied landscape of environmental, social and economic circumstances.
- Progressing employment and training programs into full-time permanent ranger positions.

Future Priorities in 2007-08: Parks Joint Management Programs

- Finalise the transfer of title and hand back of parks to Traditional Owners listed under Schedules 1 and 2 of the *Parks and Reserves (Framework for the Future) Act*.
- Increase the intake and retention of Indigenous trainees and rangers through the range of flexible employment opportunities provided by parks.
- Progress the development of park joint management plans across all regions.
- Maintain and enhance capacity building initiatives for staff and Traditional Owners.
- Continue development of the Draft West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs, Joint Management Plan.
- Determine native title so that further developments can take place on Owen Springs Reserve, west of Alice Springs.

Output: Parks And Reserves Visitor Management Programs

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

This is a new Output for 2006-07, therefore no data from previous years is available for comparison.

Performance Measures Output: Parks and Reserves Visitor Management Programs		06-07 Estimate	06-07 Actual	07-08 Estimate
Quantity	Total visits to Territory parks ⁽¹⁾	2 842 000	3 048 529	2 850 000
	Number of park visitors engaged in ranger-guided interpretation activities ⁽²⁾	12 100	12 100	12 200
Quality	Visitor satisfaction ⁽³⁾	80%	NA	80%

Notes

- Total visits to Territory parks is the sum of visits recorded for 30 of the Territory's most visited parks [International Union for the Conservation of Nature category II, III and V parks] during 2006-07.
- Territory Parks Alive Program figures based on previous calendar year.
- Cannot be reported for 2006-07 due to unavailability of services to analyse completed surveys. Tourism NT previously provided reports/analysis of visitor surveys but the process is currently under review and planned to commence for 2007-08.

Key Achievements in 2006-07: Parks And Reserves Visitor Management Programs

- Installed interpretative and management signage displays throughout the Territory at:
 - Casuarina and Point Stuart Coastal Reserves, near Darwin;
 - Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park;
 - Gregory National Park, south west of Katherine;
 - Limmen National Park (proposed), east of Katherine;
 - Bitter Springs (Elsley National Park); and
 - The Larapinta Trail (Watarrka National Park) west of Alice Springs.
- Commenced the \$85 000 Palm Valley, Finke Gorge National Park campground upgrade, near Alice Springs, which involved a re-designed layout, installation of barbecues, shade, concreting and gas reticulation.
- Completed the \$20 000 upgrade of hot water services to the ablution block in Elsey National Park's Jalmurark (12 Mile Campground) near Katherine.
- Developed management and campground facilities and completed stage one of the boat ramp development at Channel Point Coastal Reserve, south west of Darwin, at a cost of \$700 000, and continued regular consultation with all stakeholders.
- Constructed an amphitheatre and new shelter at the Redbank Gorge day use area and commenced building a new toilet block at Ellery Creek Big Hole, west of Alice Springs.
- Undertook repairs and maintenance including:
 - Watarrka National Park's Kings Canyon Rim walk, west of Alice Springs;
 - constructing a new trailhead shelter at Ormiston Gorge, west of Alice Springs; and
 - maintaining the old homestead at Owen Springs, west of Alice Springs.

- Completed the development of:
 - a new campground at Araru, Garig Gunak Barlu National Park (Cobourg); and
 - campgrounds at Garig Gunak Barlu National Park (Cobourg) had new shower and hand wash facilities installed, increasing water capacity with solar powered hot water.
- Upgraded the walking tracks in the Holmes Jungle Nature Reserve monsoon forest in Darwin, combined with the repair of the bridges across Palm Creek damaged by floods from cyclone Monica in April 2006.
- Completed a viewing platform and opened the Nganalam Art Site within Keep River National Park, south west of Katherine, for the public.
- Completed the Tuwakam track linking Jasper Gorge to the Bullita access road in Gregory National Park, south west of Katherine, creating a convenient day loop for tourists.
- Rejuvenated Sullivan's Campground in Gregory National Park, south west of Katherine, to allow easier access for caravans and camper trailers within the campground.
- Commenced planning of the West MacDonnell National Park Visitor Centre with a workshop involving relevant stakeholders held to consider options for the location of the visitor centre. Funding for the design work is available in the 2007-08 budget, with funding for construction expected in 2008-09.
- Commenced the early stages of planning the development of a mountain bike track at Charles Darwin National Park which involved consultation with the Darwin Off Road Club to map the track.
- Completed the oral history project for Litchfield National Park that involved collecting personal stories from 30 people connected to the Litchfield area for use in the proposed visitor centre.
- Negotiated an agreement with concessionaire and Traditional Owners over the management of the Cape Don Light House Complex at Garig Gunak Barlu National Park (Cobourg) and renegotiated safari hunting and eco-tour concessions.
- Undertook risk assessments and developed risk management plans for parks across the Northern Territory.
- Developed fact and information sheets for Point Stuart and Channel Point Coastal Reserves and 4WD tracks in the Mary River National Park (proposed).
- Continued the Territory Park's Alive program of free walks and talks offered to park visitors between May and October and the Junior Ranger program, that enables children aged between 9 to 14 to become involved with appropriate parks programs.
- Finalised agreement with the landowner over the opening of Point Stuart Coastal Reserve to the general public to allow access to the sea via an agreement with Point Stuart Fishing Camp.
- Continued to develop the Jatbula Trail Steering Committee which includes stakeholders: Jawoyn Traditional Owners, the Jawoyn Association, Tourism NT and the Katherine Regional Tourism Association.
- Litchfield National Park recognised as the "number one must see un-discovered gem", as voted by readers of the *Australian Traveller* magazine, from more than 800 nominations in a nation-wide survey.

Challenges in 2006-07: Parks And Reserves Visitor Management Programs

- Developing destinations for tourism from which concessions and enterprise can base potential operations within Parks including redeveloping / renegotiating existing commercial operations to meet visitor demands, while maintaining conservation values of the Park.
- Late wet season rain and severe flooding caused major damage to sites particularly along creeks and roads. This delayed the opening of roads and sites until repairs were carried out in areas such as Litchfield National Park and the Arnhem wetlands.
- Managing anti-social issues in Parks and Reserves such as vandalism, disruptive behaviour and unsafe activities has resulted in an increase in management sign replacement including content changes, production and installation and increased need for ranger patrols and enforcement training.
- Managing the water quality in the Howard Springs Nature Park waterhole, near Darwin, to ensure it meets new Australian Water Quality guidelines and be maintained at this level.
- Managing fires and visitors at Casuarina Coastal Reserve on Territory Day, 1 July to ensure fires are made below the high water mark and that crackers are lit in clear areas of the beach.

Future Priorities in 2007-08: Parks And Reserves Visitor Management Programs

- Continue planning to cater for the anticipated increase in visitors following the sealing of the road for the Red Centre Way in Central Australia, and finalisation of planning for the West MacDonnell Visitor Centre.
- Begin preparation for the visitor centre display in Litchfield National Park and upgrade the Park visitor facilities.
- Review management strategies, programs and prioritise actions across the Northern Territory to determine resource allocation to visitor management, including the establishment of a suitable staffing structure to deliver prioritised visitor management programs.
- Continue the upgrade of the Kings Canyon Rim Walk in Watarrka National Park, west of Alice Springs, to maintain the high standard required for a high visitation area.
- Complete the Palm Valley campground upgrade works that includes barbecues, shelter, wash up facilities and information signage, at Finke Gorge National Park, west of Alice Springs.
- Construct the new Larapinta Trail shelter at 2 Mile (Finke River) and Jay Creek.
- Finish construction of the amphitheatre at Ormiston Gorge, the Ellery Creek Big Hole toilet block and associated landscaping at West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs.
- Continue to develop the management plan for Howard Springs Nature Park waterhole, near Darwin, to meet the new draft Australian Water Quality guidelines.

Output: Parks And Reserves Conservation Management Programs

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

This is a new Output for 2006-07, therefore no data from previous years is available for comparison.

Performance Measures Output: Parks and Reserves Conservation Management Programs		06-07 Estimate	06-07 Actual	07-08 Estimate
Quantity	Plans of Management ⁽¹⁾	22	23	24
	Management Plans or Statements of management intent – non Section 12 landholdings ⁽²⁾	6	6	11
	Conservation Plans	279	NA ⁽³⁾	222
Quality	S12 landholdings covered by Plans of Management or Statements of Management Intent ⁽⁴⁾	98%	99%	99%
	Park landholdings (excluding S12 and joint managed parks) covered by Plans of management ⁽⁵⁾	1.4%	1.54	82.5%
	Critical actions/outputs achieved	85%	NA ⁽⁶⁾	85%

Notes

- Plans of Management are statutory documents reviewed every five years. Includes all parks with plans whether or not older than 10 years. This does not include Joint Management Plans. (Channel Point will have a Plan of Management by 30 June 2008).
- Management Plans or Statements of Management Intent are prepared for land where Plans of Management are not a statutory requirement i.e. lands not declared under Section 12 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*.
- Cannot report at this time as process to standardise conservation plans is in progress. For 2007-08 reviewed target of 85 per cent of 261 parks = 222.
- Section 12 landholdings (non joint management) total area = 263818.55 ha. These landholdings with Plans of Management or Statements of Management Intent (SoMI) = 261907.55 ha.
- Total S12 landholdings (non joint management) = 1746867 ha. Non Section 12 Parks under Plans of Management or SoMI cover 26974ha. [SoMIs will be compiled for Owen Springs and Limmen in 2007-08].
- The process to standardise conservation plans is in progress so unable to determine whether critical actions/outputs have been achieved.

Key Achievements in 2006-07: Parks And Reserves Conservation Management Programs

- Erected 11 kilometres of fencing along the south eastern boundary of Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park to assist in feral animal control.
- Repaired and maintained fences damaged by camels in Watarrka National Park and culled several hundred feral camels in the area.
- Conducted feral animal control on West Island, near Sir Edward Pellew Group of Islands, in conjunction with Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association Incorporated (Katherine region).
- Completed an aerial shoot of feral animals at Owen Springs Reserve, south west of Alice Springs, that totalled 51 cattle and 17 horses and continued feral animal control programs at Finke Gorge, Ormiston Gorge and Simpson's Gap.
- Completed an intensive feral animal program on the Mary River National Park (proposed).
- Conducted a biodiversity survey within the Spring Creek area, south of Borroloola, which revealed a high success in trapping a significant number of animals.
- Undertook fire management programs within Litchfield National Park which involved continued high level of liaison with Bushfires NT, adjoining landowners and Traditional Owners resulting in a reduced number of wildfires in the Park.
- Statement of Management Intent prepared for Shoal Bay Coastal Reserve and prepared fire reports and action plans for implementation at all southern region parks.
- Prepared fire reports and action plans for implementation at Watarrka National Park, Finke Gorge, Simpson's Gap and Owen Springs Reserve, west of Alice Springs.
- Protected the monsoon forest in Holmes Jungle, Darwin, from wildfire by burning along the forest edges as soon as possible after the wet season.

- Controlled and managed key weed species in Owen Springs Reserve, south west of Alice Springs, preventing the spread of Bathurst burr, rubber bush, white cedar and Mexican poppy.
- Controlled coffee bush along the mangrove community on Lakeside Drive, Darwin, with most of the work undertaken by Larrakia Nation rangers with follow-up and final clean-up work undertaken by Agency staff.
- Prepared weed reports and action plans to implement at parks west of Alice Springs including Watarrka National Park, Finke Gorge National Park, Simpson's Gap and Owen Springs Reserve, with input from Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers at Watarrka National Park.
- Mapped gamba grass west of the visitor road in Charles Darwin National Park and sprayed with herbicide.
- Sprayed and removed the poinciana regrowth at Tree Point Conservation Area, south east of Darwin, over a distance of 30 metres along the entrance road with natural vegetation replacing the poinciana.
- Commenced the control of the Mossman River grass by reducing its spread on the dunes along the Casuarina Coastal Reserve, Darwin.
- Completed the weed removal program Devil's Claw Festival, and made significant progress in the East Baines area of Gregory National Park, south west of Katherine, with another year of very low devil's claw weed numbers.
- Progressed control of the weed parkinsonia within Keep River National Park, west of Katherine, through co-operative arrangements with neighbours and communities within the Park.
- Completed weed control programs with a major reduction of olive hymenachne achieved in Harrison Dam, near Darwin.
- Erosion control completed at Gregory's Tree, Gregory National Park, south west of Katherine, to preserve trees and provide for visitor access.
- Continued to assist the Agency with maintenance of the captive bred mala (rufous hare-wallaby) program in Watarrka National Park, west of Alice Springs. Rangers are responsible for the maintenance of the enclosure, monitoring the electric fence to ensure the enclosure remains predator proof, and providing supplementary feeding for the mala, while also assisting scientists to conduct population census and health checks.
- Monitored marine turtle nesting on Darwin's Casuarina Coastal Reserve beaches by relocating the eggs to an alternative area where hatching can be monitored.
- Monitored the nesting effort of leatherback turtles at Danger Point, Garig Gunak Barlu National Park (Cobourg), due to the discovery of these animals nesting at Cobourg.
- Engaged renowned expert in World Heritage nominations Dr Geoff Mosley to research the World Heritage values of the West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs, and provide a report on his assessment of the values, both natural and cultural, which is due in 2007-08.
- Carried out standard fauna surveys in Fish Hole area (Ellery) and at Finke Gorge National Park, south west of Alice Springs, to provide base-line data for the specific vegetation units and develop species records.
- Continued support of Darwin's Casuarina Landcare Group by enabling projects to replant the dunes with trees and shrubs.
- Established a new Parks and Wildlife office for the Gulf region located at Mataranka which provides rangers with more timely access to land management areas.
- Employed two Indigenous apprentice rangers at Elsey and Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Parks to undertake land management programs.
- Assisted a local Indigenous work crew with a grant from the Agency's Heritage Conservation Services to rebuild and maintain stockyards at Bullita, Gregory National Park, south west of Katherine.

Challenges in 2006-07: Parks And Reserves Conservation Management Programs

- A prolonged wet season delayed the start of annual fire management programs and hampered access in Litchfield National Park.
- Late wet season rains in the Top End caused by heavy rain from Cyclone Monica in April 2006, resulted in an invasion of gamba and mission grass in the wetlands, with weed management programs adjusted to incorporate more aerial spraying due to the lack of access.
- Encouraging other land managers to help control mission grass within the road reserves through Parks which threatens fire regimes and threatened species.
- Preventing the Noogoora burr weed moving up through the East Baines catchment, south west of Katherine, spread by the grazing of feral stock.
- Fire management to reduce large scale fires and protect biodiversity was difficult due to the climate and seasonal conditions.
- Increased costs associated with feral animal removal programs, involving the use of helicopters and liaising with pastoralists in the western end of Ormiston Gorge, west of Alice Springs.
- Fire protection along the dunes of Casuarina Coastal Reserve, Darwin, is difficult when fires are deliberately lit by others in the community.

Future Priorities in 2007-08: Parks And Reserves Conservation Management Programs

- Review natural resource management strategies and programs to prioritise actions across the Northern Territory, which will determine resource allocation to weed, fire and feral animal management.
- Establish a suitable staffing structure to deliver prioritised natural resource management programs.
- Implement weed management strategies and programs aimed at a long term removal of threats such as the control of devil's claw throughout the Gregory National Park, south west of Katherine, and reducing the spread of the Noogoora burr within the East Baines Catchment.
- Continue feral animal management programs across the Northern Territory's parks estate through aerial shooting, mustering and fencing.
- Continue working with neighbouring landowners and Traditional Owners for fire, weed and feral animal management which includes:
 - finalisation of *Warnarrwarnarr-Barranyi (Borroloola No.2) Land Claim* for Barranyi National Park and subsequent negotiations with Northern Land Council and Traditional Owners;
 - completing Joint Management Plans of Management for Flora River Nature Park near Katherine, and Barranyi National Park near Boroloola; and
 - conducting surveys, and establishing burning regimes that provide for biodiversity and protects life and property.
- Conduct early dry season burning to reduce fuel loads to a greater extent.
- Manage the termite infestation along Rocklands Drive in Casuarina Coastal Reserve, Darwin, that is destroying a large number of trees.
- Initiate monitoring programs for the Cobourg Marine Park in accordance with the Cobourg Marine Park Plan of Management.

Output Group: Biological Parks

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

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

There are two Outputs within this Output Group:

- Botanic Gardens
- Visitor and Education Facilities

Output: Botanic Gardens

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

The Performance Measures for this Output were changed for 2006-07, therefore not all measures have data from previous years available for comparison.

Performance Measures Output: Botanic Gardens	05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate	06-07 Actual	07-08 Estimate
Quantity Visitors to George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens	N/A	220 000	202 470 ⁽¹⁾	230 000
Special events at George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens	N/A	3	3 ⁽²⁾	4
Functions at George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens	N/A	65	97 ⁽³⁾	70
New significant visitor experiences created at George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens	0	2	2 ⁽⁴⁾	2
Subsidy to Olive Pink Botanic Gardens	N/A	\$126 000	\$126 000	\$126 000
Quality User satisfaction with venue	90%	90%	98%	90%

Notes

1. 2006-07 actual figures are calculated by daily traffic counters and periodic manual head counts and therefore inherently contain a margin of error.
2. Hosted the Tropical Gardens Spectacular, Darwin Festival and Sorry Day at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.
3. The redesign of the Administration Officer position to a Visitor Services Officer position resulted in improvements to visitor focus and subsequently an increase in functions.
4. Developed two new thematic self guided trails for visitors: Bird Watching at the Gardens and Every Plant has a Story.

Key Achievements in 2006-07: Botanic Gardens

- Completed phase one of the redevelopment of the Children's Garden to attract more families to the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.
- Hosted the Tropical Garden Spectacular, Replant and significant parts of the Darwin Festival at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.
- Developed two new thematic self guided trails for visitors: 'Bird Watching at the Gardens', and 'Every Plant has a Story' at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.
- Completed phase one upgrade of the Geranium Street entrance to the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens, which included redevelopment of the gardens around the George Brown House as a demonstration garden.
- Constructed a new service road at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens to remove service vehicles from the primary walking path.
- Designed a new rainforest boardwalk to improve visitor safety and experience as the old boardwalk required major repairs, with a contractor selected to undertake this work in 2007-08.
- Commenced a major upgrade of directional signage and orientation maps at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens to improve the visitor experience.
- Hosted 'Long Timers' morning tea and Heritage Week afternoon tea at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens for long term Darwin residents to develop a better understanding of the history of the gardens.
- Assisted the Stolen Generation stallholders in hosting their Sorry Day commemorations at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.
- Continued to support the Olive Pink Botanic Gardens with mapping, propagation space, materials and horticultural and landscaping advice from the Alice Springs Desert Park.

Challenges in 2006-07: Botanic Gardens

- Late finalisation of bookings and poor access to the amphitheatre property during times of major events continued to impact on visitors to the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.

Future Priorities in 2007-08: Botanic Gardens

- Complete phase two redevelopments of the Children's Garden and Geranium Street entrance at George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.
- Develop systems and models of leadership and project management that focus on completing projects and delivering changes that will benefit visitors, the community and staff.
- Complete an interpretation plan that integrates with the visitor experience plan.
- Design the new visitor's centre to provide additional function space and display leadership in environmental design.
- Redevelop the orientation centre into a comfortable resting and sharing space.
- Complete the primary loop pathways around the George Brown Botanic Gardens to improve the visitor flow and experience.
- Complete a major upgrade of directional signage at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens to improve visitor orientation and experience.

Output: Visitor and Education Facilities

This Output creates commercial and educational opportunities by providing funding to the Alice Springs Desert Park and the Territory Wildlife Park in the form of Community Service Obligations and by operating Window on the Wetlands.

Performance Measures Output: Visitor and Education Facilities		05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate	06-07 Actual	07-08 Estimate
Quantity	Visitors to Territory Wildlife Park and Alice Springs Desert Park	156 323	162 000	161 660 ⁽¹⁾	166 000
	Visitors to Window on the Wetlands	77 681	77 000	79 673	77 000
	Subsidy per visitor	\$50.01	\$48.36	\$48.46	\$47.68
	Threatened species breeding programs	9	9	9	9
Quality	Success of threatened species programs	80%	80%	100% ⁽²⁾	80%

Notes

- Increased visitation at the Alice Springs Desert Park and Territory Wildlife Park due to targeted marketing, special events, new products, an increase in functions and promotion of the Territorian Annual Pass.
- The Alice Springs Desert Park and the Territory Wildlife Park fulfilled their annual commitments to the national recovery plans for the greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*), central rock-rat (*Zyomys pedunculatus*) northern quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) and Carpentarian rock-rat (*Zyomys palatilis*).

Key Achievements in 2006-07: Visitor and Education Facilities

- Largest yearly increase (6.5 per cent) in visitors to the Territory Wildlife Park in the past ten years indicating the target marketing strategies put in place are succeeding.
- Awarded two Northern Territory Brolga Awards for Tourism Excellence: Major Tourist Attraction and Ecotourism and re-accredited with Advanced Ecotourism Accreditation at the Alice Springs Desert Park.
- Developed new cultural interpretation at Window on the Wetlands, in partnership with Limilngan-Wulna people, to increase visitor appreciation of the spiritual significance of the site.
- Hosted two Indigenous art night markets in partnership with DesArt that attracted 1610 visitors to the Alice Springs Desert Park.
- Completed stage three of the interpretation upgrade at the Territory Wildlife Park as part of the transition from a wildlife park to a habitat based park (Biological Park), which included:
 - upgrading exhibits along the Monsoon Forest Walk to include mixed species exhibits and closing the Arthropods and Reptiles display;
 - upgrading the Main Station with thematic photographic wall panels, large plasma screen and animal exhibits; and
 - developing a new orientation map to improve visitor navigation.
- Introduced an Attraction Passport with the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Alice Springs Reptile Centre, School of the Air and Alice Springs Telegraph Station to provide discounted entry prices into each of the attractions within.
- Hosted 8024 Territory school students free of charge at the Alice Springs Desert Park and Territory Wildlife Park.

- Sold 8445 Territorian Passes (unlimited yearly park access for the price of one admission fee) with 6388 Territorian Pass visits recorded at the Alice Springs Desert Park and Territory Wildlife Park.
- Continued to involve central Arrernte Apmere-atyeye and Kungarakan-Warrai custodians at the Alice Springs Desert Park and Territory Wildlife Park respectively on economic opportunities and developments, and sought support for future plans for developments on both sites as part of the master planning process.
- Hosted a National Environmental Education Summit with national and international delegates via the Federal Environmental Education Grants Program, Department of the Environment and Heritage.
- Hosted 532 students for educational programs at the Territory Wildlife Park's 'Camp Calytrix', a camp designed for schools and community groups to learn more about the Territory Wildlife Park and its inhabitants at night.
- Hosted 'Discover Australia', an expo to showcase Australian tourism products to German retail agents at the Alice Springs Desert Park.
- Developed an Adopt-a-School partnership with Yipirinya School at the Alice Springs Desert Park and a work experience program with Berry Springs High School at Territory Wildlife Park, for students to experience career options, develop employable skills and build self esteem.
- Fulfilled annual commitments to the national recovery plans for the greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*), central rock-rat (*Zyzomys pedunculatus*) northern quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) and Carpentarian rock-rat (*Zyzomys palatilis*) at the Alice Springs Desert Park and the Territory Wildlife Park.
- Collected one flood plain skink (*Egernia slateri*) for genetic testing and released 25 red-tailed Phascogale (*Phascogale calura*) into the greater site, at the Alice Springs Desert Park.
- Established a yellow-snouted gecko (*Diplodactylus occultus*) breeding program and released 20 brush-tailed tree rats (*Conilurus penicillatus*) into the greater site at the Territory Wildlife Park.
- Re-developed the top floor of Window on the Wetlands into art gallery space and acquired EFTPOS facilities for sale of Limilgnan-Wulna art.
- Celebrated the Alice Springs Desert Park's 10th birthday with 2700 people attending, including 2265 locals.
- Implemented a 12 month plan of interactive and fun school holiday programs targeted towards Territorian Pass holders (unlimited yearly park access for the price of one admission fee) at the Territory Wildlife Park.
- Maintained the Undoolya wattle (*Acacia undoolyana*) captive husbandry living collection and seed collection at the Alice Springs Desert Park.
- Continued developing a new day and night Woodland Walk at the Territory Wildlife Park.
- Developed the Red Centre Way Visitor Experience Strategy with the Northern Territory Government Department of the Chief Minister, Department of Planning and Infrastructure and Tourism NT.
- Developed new children's website pages for the Alice Springs Desert Park with local primary school students, Arrernte elders and students in Tucson Arizona.
- Installed car park lighting at both the Alice Springs Desert Park and the Territory Wildlife Park to expand the capacity for night functions.
- Enlarged the function area lawn at the Territory Wildlife Park for concerts.

Challenges in 2006-07: Visitor and Education Facilities

- Accessed repairs and maintenance funds and consulted with the Kungarakan custodians of the sacred site to repair damage caused by a fallen Banyan Tree which closed half of the Monsoon Forest for six months at the Territory Wildlife Park.
- Evolving both Parks in line with changing market trends and customer needs, while integrating planning and activities with regional and community aspirations and developments.
- Highly seasonal nature of visitation poses a challenge to tourism operators.

Future Priorities in 2007-08: Visitor and Education Facilities

- Handover day-to-day management of Window on the Wetlands to the Limilngan-Wulna Traditional Owners.
- Complete the master planning process for the Alice Springs Desert Park and develop an integrated visitor experience plan.
- Commence guided bike rides at the Territory Wildlife Park, and guided night activities at the Alice Springs Desert Park and Territory Wildlife Park, to diversify the experiences available to visitors and increase the use of the Parks outside standard opening hours.
- Build a freshwater whipray feeding pool and **Burning for Biodiversity** exhibit at the Territory Wildlife Park to enhance visitor experience.
- Contribute to the Northern Territory Government's *Moving Alice Ahead* initiative for Alice Springs through projects such as:
 - Indigenous Arts and Culture;
 - Workforce Development and the Red Centre Way to build and strengthen the regions economy;
 - helping to build a skilled local workforce; and
 - attracting more visitors to the region and planning for future development.
- Complete the development of an alfresco dining area at the Territory Wildlife Park Café.
- Complete interactive website pages for the Alice Springs Desert Park to allow potential visitors to plan their own natural and cultural Central Australian experiences, enabling effective planning, maximising potential for enjoyment and providing links to other opportunities in the region.

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.

There are four Outputs within this Output Group:

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

Output: Natural Resource Assessment

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

Performance Measures		05-06	06-07	06-07	07-08
Output: Natural Resource Assessment		Actual	Estimate	Actual	Estimate
Quantity	Strategic assessment programs	22	11	11 ⁽¹⁾	11
Quality	Stakeholder satisfaction	N/A	90%	90%	90%
Timelines	Assessment project milestones met	85%	85%	87%	87.5%

Note

1. Strategic Assessment Programs conducted on

- Biodiversity inventory and planning;
- Sustainable use of wildlife;
- Control of pest animals;
- Coastal and marine (Darwin Harbour and Daly estuary)
- Land capability and vegetation (Victoria River District, Daly region, Adelaide River, Central Australian horticulture, vegetation and mapping and Northern Territory Digitisation Project)

Key Achievements in 2006-07: Natural Resource Assessment

Biodiversity Inventory and Planning

- Commenced the first coordinated surveys for estuarine dolphins in the Northern Territory to help define the taxonomic status of these species, provide baseline estimates of population size and information on ecology and distribution.
- Rediscovered the endangered butterfly, the desert sand skipper, after it had disappeared for 35 years in Central Australia, and commenced a monitoring program for its population.

- Commenced a three year program in the Daly region to provide informed biodiversity advice to government and landholders as a mechanism to achieve a balance between conservation and development. Assessment commenced at 150 sites in the region, in collaboration with landholders on:
 - biodiversity values of intact forest;
 - regenerating forest;
 - forest isolates; and
 - cleared lands for all terrestrial vertebrate species and invertebrate groups.
- Listed 177 of the Northern Territory's plants and animals as 'threatened' after a comprehensive re-assessment and formal gazettal of the conservation status of all the Territory's flora and fauna through expert analysis by Agency scientists and public consultation.
- Completed an assessment of the biodiversity values of the West MacDonnell Ranges, within the West MacDonnell National Park, to highlight the international significance of biodiversity in the region. This data will be used against criteria for the proposed nomination of World Heritage Listing status of the National Park.
- Coordinated a series of ecological studies on the:
 - northern quoll, the animal species most threatened by cane toads, which included a large-scale assessment of the co-existence of quolls and toads in Queensland, and the natural occurrence of quolls on island refuges in the Northern Territory;
 - nationally endangered Slater's skink and its response to invasion of its habitat by introduced grasses;
 - nationally threatened mulgara in response to fire and predation, in collaboration with the University of New England; and
 - sea turtle research in Indigenous communities at the Tiwi Islands, Borroloola and Groote Eylandt.
- Secured funding (US\$155 000) from the Government of Timor Leste (East Timor) to build capacity and work collaboratively on three marine projects:
 - establishing Timor's first marine park;
 - marine habitat mapping; and
 - developing a coastal and marine ecotourism strategy for Timor Leste.
- Instigated a series of scientific and stakeholder workshops to plan the future directions of conservation, research and monitoring of coastal, estuarine and marine environments. The outcomes of the workshops will provide critical inputs into major conservation policies being developed in the Territory including:
 - a Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Conservation Strategy;
 - a Marine Research and Development Strategy; and
 - a Coastal, Estuarine and Marine Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation Framework.

Sustainable Use of Wildlife

- Developed and/or implemented a series of management plans for pest and sustainably used animals that included:
 - management plans for wild dogs (feral) and for dingoes (protected native species) in the Northern Territory;
 - public release of a **Draft Management Plan for Cycads**;
 - a management program for red kangaroos and euros (common wallaroo);
 - commencement of a review of a management program for freshwater crocodiles; and
 - commencement of a project on cross-jurisdictional management of feral camels to protect natural and cultural values.

- Commenced review of Part IV Animals and Plants, Division 6 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*, which covers permit allocations for protected wildlife.
- Developed and/or consolidated a productive collaboration with Land Councils and Indigenous ranger groups for joint surveys, monitoring and management of threatened species and other biodiversity with the:
 - Anindilyakwa Land Council on Groote Eylandt and surrounding islands;
 - Central Land Council, particularly including surveys and monitoring of the greater bilby in the Tanami Desert and Slater's skink with the Tjuwanpa ranger group based at Hermannsburg;
 - Tiwi Land Council in a series of studies on threatened plant and animal species;
 - Northern Land Council and the Gumurr Marthakal rangers for a series of management and research projects for biodiversity on islands off north-eastern Arnhem Land, notably including monitoring and survey for the threatened golden bandicoot and translocated populations of the northern quoll; and
 - Thamarurr rangers with an assessment of the biodiversity of the poorly-known Macadam Range in the upper Daly area.
- Maintained a comprehensive management and monitoring program for crocodiles that included:
 - removing more than 250 saltwater crocodiles from the Darwin Harbour Catchment area;
 - monitoring the population numbers of crocodiles in the Adelaide and Arnhem Land river systems to ensure the sustainability of egg and adult harvests as required under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora;
 - collaborating with Kakadu National Park to ensure a single Territory-wide crocodile population survey, database and reporting system;

- monitoring the sustainability of the harvest of crocodile eggs in the Northern Territory via permits and control surveys of nesting sites (Darwin); and
- continued a successful collaboration with Parks Australia and the Mutitjulu Community at Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park, to monitor and research a population of mala in a predator-proof enclosure.

Control of Pest Animals

- Completed a five-yearly aerial survey of feral horses and donkeys in accordance with the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* and the *Pastoral Lands Act* in the Victoria River District, which showed since 2001 donkey numbers have declined by almost 50 per cent and horse densities have increased marginally. The results indicate:
 - current management programs have been relatively successful for a number of pastoral properties; and
 - horse and donkey numbers can be readily controlled by either initiating a program of maintenance shooting or by ongoing low level culling to maintain populations at lowered levels.
- Undertook surveys and control actions for a number of feral and pest animal species across the Territory including the Tiwi Islands and parts of Arnhem Land, that resulted in substantial aerial survey data, and production of maps with population density and trend information for all major feral vertebrates across the Northern Territory.
- Instigated a cane toad exclusion system with Perkins Shipping Darwin that involved building a barrier fence around its compound, installing cane toad traps and staff training and education at its Darwin Port facility to ensure cane toads are not transported to Territory islands.

Coastal and Marine

- Completed a model and evaluation for the [Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee](#) on the impacts of increased sediment and nutrient loads due to urbanisation in the Darwin Harbour catchment. A range of scenarios were modelled using current and potential population data, and included increases in sewage effluent due to the differing population.
- Completed a hydrodynamic (salinity and sediment) transport model for the Daly Estuary to be used as a decision support system to evaluate the impacts of developments on the estuarine ecosystem, allowing Government and developers to make the best economic and ecological decisions. The model simulated river currents in both the dry and wet seasons and decreased dry season flows, sediments in the estuary bed and sediments suspended in the water.
- Completed coarse models of currents around jewfish sites in Chambers Bay (off the mouth of Sampan Creek in the Lower Mary River system) and the Perron Islands. This modelling was to gain a better understanding on fish population dynamics in the Northern Territory as a tool for recreational and commercial fisheries management.

Land Capability and Vegetation

- Launched [NRETA Maps](#), a Northern Territory specific website mapping application that details the natural and cultural resource data and information held by the Agency; such as groundwater and surface water, soils, land units, native vegetation clearing and vegetation survey boundaries.
 - Launched the Northern Territory's [Guidelines and Field Methodology for Vegetation Survey and Mapping](#), a tool to enable standardised and consistent description of native vegetation to aid its protection.
- Successfully trialled a national approach to determining health of native vegetation and continued definition of definitive vegetation types for the Northern Territory, which involved evaluating and adapting a model from other Australian states using vegetation data in the Top End.
 - Continued progress of land resource assessments collecting, classifying and interpreting soil, vegetation and land use data in the Greater Darwin area, Alice Springs District, Victoria River District, Katherine-Fergusson catchment, Murrumbidgee and Coomalie regions for the support of natural resource management.
 - Developed a soil condition monitoring system to determine the impacts of land use in a trial in the Douglas Daly region to help protect natural resources from soil erosion.

Challenges in 2006-07: Natural Resource Assessment

Biodiversity Inventory and Planning

- Re-assessment of the Northern Territory's plant and animal conservation status was an enormous exercise with more than 4500 species of plants, 1600 species of vertebrates and uncounted numbers of invertebrates reviewed and then documentation required for the public consultation.
- Developing cost-effective strategic management and monitoring programs for the Territory's many threatened species, feral vertebrates and other biodiversity, while co-ordinating wildlife management programs with input from multi-jurisdictional Government and non-government organisations and members of the public.
- Implementing a national and international best practice approach to planning and establishing Marine Protected Areas in the Territory that recognises the unique ecological, social, economic and cultural context of the Territory, while ensuring all stakeholder views are heard and implemented accordingly.

Sustainable Use of Wildlife

- Developing and establishing education programs to improve the community's knowledge of native species and feral animals throughout the Territory to understand, monitor, protect and conserve coastal, estuarine and marine environments.

Control of Pest Animals

- Developing and maintaining effective collaborative relationships for biodiversity and feral animal study, assessment and management across regional Indigenous ranger groups, inter-governmental agencies, volunteers and land management groups across the Territory.
- Developing and maintaining enough Territorians with accredited skills to undertake aerial shooting and control programs and fulfil national obligations for emergency disease incursions.

Land Capability and Vegetation

- Meeting the needs for the collection of strategic scientific data on land and vegetation while reacting to demands for the supply of data for regulatory and land condition monitoring activities.
- Keeping abreast of and deploying suitable technologies to meet project requirements.

Coastal and Marine

- Providing expert advice on the environmental impacts of a steadily escalating number of, and complexity in, development applications.

Future Priorities in 2007-08: Natural Resource Assessment

Biodiversity Inventory and Planning

- Develop and maintain an effective and integrated biodiversity monitoring program – for both terrestrial biodiversity and coastal and marine environments to measure trends in the Territory's biodiversity.
- Finalise a Northern Territory Marine Protected Areas Strategy and Marine Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.
- Undertake a pilot marine biodiversity survey and assessment of the coastal and marine ecosystems of North East Arnhem Land.
- Ensure a Territory-wide approach to marine debris and wildlife impact reporting, including formal agreements with Commonwealth agencies and Aboriginal communities.
- Establish a systematic monitoring and research program for prioritised environments and species, such as the Sea Turtle Climate Change project to be conducted across Northern Australia.
- Publish a book on the threatened plants and animals of the Northern Territory, accessible to the general reader.

Sustainable Use of Wildlife

- Complete strategies and plans for sustainable use, including the Magpie Goose and Waterfowl Management Plan.
- Maintain effective working relationships with Indigenous ranger groups across the Northern Territory and establish formal collaborative marine research links and partnerships with Western Australia and Queensland.

Control of Pest Animals

- Complete a feral animal strategy for the Northern Territory for landscape scale feral animal removal programs, while also generating better management strategies for overabundant native and feral animals throughout the Northern Territory.
- Establish nationally accredited training programs to better equip staff to undertake wildlife management in the Northern Territory.

Land Capability and Vegetation

- Extension of soil condition monitoring to priority areas across the Northern Territory.
- Complete a trial and evaluation in the Daly Basin of cost-effective, management scale, vegetation mapping techniques and extend the application of the technique to priority areas across the Northern Territory.

Coastal and Marine

- Develop an Acid Sulfate Risk Map for Darwin Harbour so land use planners and land developers know where land at risk of acid production occurs, and appropriate management is applied to avoid major environmental damage.

- Work collaboratively with the Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge research hub to develop a sediment transport and ecosystem model for Darwin Harbour and to develop a bed load sediment transport model for the Daly River and estuary.
- Mapping habitats in Bynoe Harbour and developing a hydrodynamic model for marine park planning.

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, native vegetation and soil conservation.

Performance Measures Output: Natural Resource Management Activities		05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate	06-07 Actual	07-08 Estimate
Quantity	Strategic programs	22	22	22 ⁽¹⁾	22
	Territory expenditure as a proportion of total dollars committed	72%	57%	78% ⁽²⁾	66%
	Area of wildfire compared with controlled burns	0:8:1	2.6:1	4.7:1 ⁽³⁾	2.7:1
Quality	Programs meeting agreed targets	73%	80%	73%	80%
Timeliness	Project milestones met	73%	80%	90%	80%

Notes

1. Strategic programs covered the areas of fire management, weeds management and native vegetation and soil conservation.
2. Natural resource management activities leveraged considerable Australian Government grant funding from the likes of the National Heritage Trust.
3. A measure of the area burnt in wildfires compared to controlled fires, with 2006-07 the worst year for extreme fire weather on record, resulting in an increased area of land burnt by wildfire.

Key Achievements in 2006-07: Natural Resource Management Activities

Fire Management

- Negotiated and commenced the 17-year West Arnhem Fire Management Agreement between Conoco Phillips and the Northern Territory Government, which is the worlds first greenhouse gas offset project based on bushfire management where Traditional Owners are remunerated to reduce late dry season wildfires.
- Provided counter disaster relief for hazard response through Bushfires NT assistance with:
 - Adelaide River floods
 - provision of logistical support
 - setting up a temporary school
 - conducting food drops to isolated residents
 - conducted a medivac rescue
 - Tennant Creek Cyanide Spill
 - provided communications support
 - fire protection
 - assisted with staffing the Emergency Operations Centre
 - Katherine area floods
 - cleaning up of flood damaged houses
- Responded to the Victorian bushfire emergency in January 2007 by sending 52 Bushfires NT staff and six vehicles to assist with a month long firefighting effort in the Thomson Dam catchment area, following a request for support from the Victorian Country Fire Service and the Victorian Department of Environment and Sustainability.

- Suppressed large wildfires at Darwin River, Elsey and the Barkly regions without loss of life. The largest of these responses, at Darwin River in September 2006, saw 57 firefighters (50 volunteers and 7 staff) fight the blaze over three days using 49 appliances including 27 grass fire units, two graders and three helicopters. A total of 38 km² of rural residential land was burnt with 158 properties affected, 21 of those properties were severely damaged.
- Implemented new Fire Ban Day standby procedures, which included having aerial suppression (aeroplanes equipped with a water bombing facility) on standby, and placing firefighting staff on a high level of alert in order to improve capacity to respond to wildfire.
- Developed a new short course, Basic Wildfire Awareness Training, in order to deliver appropriate fire training to rural and remote communities and pastoral workers.

Weeds Management

- Continued the containment and eradication program for the aquatic cabomba weed in the lower Darwin River with limited number of seedling and juvenile plants being found, indicating ongoing techniques and strategies are successful.
- Assisted in the development of the National Post-Border Weed Risk Management Group and became an inaugural member of the group.
- Developed and tested key components the Northern Territory Weed Risk Management System in-line with the National Post-Border Weed Risk Management protocol (Australian Standards HB 294-2006), in collaboration with Charles Darwin University.
- Successfully sought external funding for a research and development program which will improve the way the Northern Territory and northern Australia (Western Australia/Queensland) understands and responds to threats posed by grassy weeds, which will also improve the Territory's capacity to assess and undertake weed risk assessments to non-grassy invasive plants.

- Appointed Weeds of National Significance coordinators for athel pine and mimosa weeds to enable eradication and education programs to be implemented.
- Established the Northern Grassy Weeds Steering Committee; a cross-jurisdictional advisory panel with representatives from Western Australia, Queensland and South Australia to facilitate the sharing of expertise and data related to the management of grassy weeds in northern Australia.
- Formed the Weed Risk Management Reference Group and Technical Working Group to ensure key stakeholder participation in the design, development and implementation of the Northern Territory Weed Risk Management System.
- Developed Draft Northern Territory Weed Management Plans for bellyache bush, physic nut, parkinsonia, mimosa and athel pine.
- Implemented the Katherine Regional Weed Management Strategy and Action Plan 2005-2010.

Native Vegetation and Soil Conservation

- Revised *Land Clearing Guidelines 2006* under the *Planning Act* to ensure it is connected to land clearing controls and the information is current.

Challenges in 2006-07: Natural Resource Management Activities

Fire Management

- Building resource capacity for fire management due to increasing population in the Darwin and Katherine rural areas.
- Severe climatic conditions, including 35 days of extreme fire weather (hot and dry temperatures) and the after effects of Tropical Cyclone Monica, which caused late wet season rain to much of the Territory, severely delayed bushfire mitigation work and lead to difficulties in firefighting later in the year.

Weeds Management

- Assessing weed risk and feasibility of control with limited published or quantitative data was problematic for some species. A systematic approach to dealing with limited data and on occasion the need to rely, on expert opinion was developed to address this challenge.
- Ensuring the Northern Territory Weed Risk Management System, adapted from southern models, had careful consideration of key elements of the assessment process; such as incorporating altered fire regimes and Indigenous cultural values into the assessment process, and reflecting the Territory needs and environmental conditions.
- Reviewing the Northern Territory Weed Management Strategy, following the release of the Australian Weed Strategy, to ensure the objectives of the national Strategy are incorporated in a manner appropriate to the Territory's environmental, social and economic context.

Native Vegetation and Soil Conservation

- Ensuring the adaption of best practice standards by industry in relation to soil conservation and management.

Future Priorities in 2007-08: Natural Resource Management Activities**Fire Management**

- Ensure the ongoing success of the 17-year West Arnhem Fire Management Agreement with project partners to abate greenhouse gas emissions from savanna burning in West Arnhem Land.
- Trial new procedures such as the extension of standby arrangements for the management of fire on extreme fire weather days.
- Roll out new nationally accredited firefighter training.
- Conduct research into the development of full carbon-trading capacity from savanna fire management projects.

- Build capacity for fire management in Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory.
- Mitigate and suppress wildfires without injury or loss of life.

Weeds Management

- Review the Northern Territory Weed Management Strategy.
- Develop a Northern Territory Rapid Response capability to target new weed incursions.
- Continue to manage the Cabomba Eradication Plan in conjunction with stakeholders and maintain the Quarantine Management Zone in the lower Darwin River.
- Implement the Weed Risk Management System model for the Northern Territory.
- Develop a compliance program for the *Northern Territory Weed Management Act* and Regulations.
- Review the statutory Weed Advisory Committees and implement the formation of the Northern Territory Weed Advisory Committee and Regional Weeds Reference Groups.

Native Vegetation and Soil Conservation

- Publish soil erosion and sediment control guidelines with website based manuals.
- Review of soil conservation management and regulation in the Northern Territory to improve the legislative capacity in controlling soil erosion.

Output: Water Resources

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

This is a new Output for 2006-07, therefore no data from previous years is available for comparison.

Performance Measures Output: Water Resources		06-07 Estimate	06-07 Actual	07-08 Estimate
Quantity	Gauging stations	200	200	200
	Operational rig days	195	224 ⁽¹⁾	100
	Water allocation plans declared	1	0 ⁽²⁾	2
	Water licences and permits issued	225	210 ⁽³⁾	230
Quality	Time series data collected at agreed standards	60%	65%	70%
	Proportion of unscheduled maintenance of drilling rigs	5%	1% ⁽⁴⁾	5%
	Number of non-permitted activities	3	0 ⁽⁵⁾	5
Timeliness	Services delivered within agreed timeframes	90%	90%	90%

Notes

- The increase in operational rig days was due to two unexpected projects, the Darwin River cabomba eradication program (20 days drilling) and the Wadeye to Palumpa road construction bores (10 days).
- The timing of completion and Ministerial declaration of water allocation plans meant there were no plans declared during 2006-07. However there are two plans expected to be declared during 2007-08: being the Alice Springs Water Allocation Plan and the Katherine Tindal Water Allocation Plan.
- Total permits and licences issued were for:
14 Surfacewater licences, 9 Groundwater licences and 187 Bore Construction Permits
- The lower than expected proportion of unscheduled maintenance of drilling rigs was due to a well planned and timed maintenance program.
- Non permitted activities are essentially breaches of the *Water Act*. No such breaches were discovered during 2006-07, however a planned increase in regulation activity during 2007-08 is expected to reveal up to five such breaches.

Key Achievements in 2006-07: Water Resources

- Commenced rural Darwin and Daly region bore monitoring program, with 200 landholders registered to receive free bore meters. Once installed rural Darwin water usage data will be used to complete a Darwin rural area Water Allocation Plan.
- Aided the formation of the Katherine Water Advisory Committee, a sub-committee of the Daly River Management Advisory Committee, which is responsible for providing advice to the Northern Territory Government on the production of a Water Allocation Plan for the region.
- Issued \$50 water saving device rebates to more than 700 households as part of the Waterwise Central Australia Rebate Scheme. This scheme encourages residents to purchase water saving shower heads and garden watering equipment by providing a rebate of up to \$50 on their original purchase.
- Completed the Draft Alice Springs Water Resource Strategy, which detailed there is sufficient groundwater reserves in the region for generations to come. However the strategy details the resource needs to be used carefully with community education on water conservation to be encouraged through Desert Knowledge Australia, COOLmob and other Northern Territory Government activities.
- Assisted the Ti Tree Water Advisory Committee to commence a review of the Ti Tree Water Allocation Plan, with studies of the environmental and cultural values of water resources in the Ti Tree Water Control District nearing completion, which will be used as part of the review.
- Completed assessments of the Pacoota Sandstone aquifer in the Alice Springs Roe Creek Borefield.
- Completed evaluation and investigative drilling of potential aquifers to supply the Ngukurr community, along with re-assessment and production bore drilling for the upgrade of Nguui's water supply, for the Power and Water Corporation.

- Completed investigative drilling and bore testing programs at East Howard, Darwin River, Lambells Lagoon, Daly River, Bulman, Mataranka, Mountain Valley, Ti-Tree, Undoolya, Rocky Hill, Orange Creek and Hermansburg to assess groundwater resources.
- Successfully drilled and tested bores for water supply at Channel Point and Middle Point for the Agency's Parks Division, Acacia Bushfire Council, Dundee school community development and for road construction work associated with an upgrade between Wadeye and Palumpa.
- Researched, assessed and purchased a new range of data loggers and communication devices to replace existing redundant equipment. This enhanced the Agency's ability to provide more reliable baseline surface water assessment data that is reported daily to the Agency's website.
- Upgraded instrumentation throughout the southern region including all the flood forecasting sites for the Alice Springs township, with nine sites now directly reporting data to the Agency's website.
- Upgraded four telemetered flood forecasting sites in the Adelaide, Todd and Katherine River Catchments, improving reliability and considerably reducing operational costs prior to the wet season.
- Assisted with the facilitation and development of the Institute for Sustainable Futures Final Report on the implementation of an [Alice Springs Water Efficiency Program](#). The report will identify water efficiency options, savings and costs and allow the Agency to implement the expanded Waterwise Central Australia Rebate Scheme in 2007-08.
- Worked closely with the National Water Commission on:
 - integrated surface water – groundwater models in the Daly River catchment and Darwin Rural area to predict responses to different land use and development;
 - investigation of groundwater and surface water interaction in the Gulf region to identify groundwater dependent ecosystems and assist with the determination of environmental water provisions;
 - determination of sustainability of groundwater resources along the western margin of the Great Artesian Basin;
- a baseline assessment of the water resources of Australia in accordance with the [National Water Initiative Intergovernmental Agreement](#); and
- development of a collaborative project with Geoscience Australia and Western Australian and South Australian Governments to deliver an integrated national strategy for defining groundwater resources within palaeovalleys (ancient valleys).
- Contributed to the Northern Territory Natural Resources Management Board Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan by undertaking projects to:
 - provide the knowledge of the environmental water requirements of groundwater dependent ecosystems in the Ti Tree and Alice Springs Water Control Districts in collaboration with CSIRO and the University of Tasmania;
 - biophysically model the water quality at the Darwin rural area Black Jungle groundwater dependent ecosystem; and
 - collate information available on the Northern Territory's inland aquatic ecosystems to enable integrated decision making and planning relating to these ecosystems.
- Provided in-kind assistance, data and input to Land and Water Australia's Tropical Rivers Program and the Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge Research Hub Program, developing methodologies for total water resource inventory and assessment in tropical Australia and integrated water management planning for northern Australian rivers.
- Contributed to inputs sought by the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality by undertaking collaborative research projects with CSIRO and Charles Darwin University:
 - Water Quality in the Daly River – A Multi-Disciplinary Management Approach; and
 - evaluating the Potential for Irrigation Induced Salinisation of the Keep River Plains.

- Provided preliminary water resource assessments and extensive resource data information sets, maps and drawings to the Central Land Council, in collaboration with the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Mines, for 23 priority locations across the southern region to support the development of new sustainable commercial horticulture.

Challenges in 2006-07: Water Resources

- Ensuring community and industry representatives on Water Allocation Committees have a clear understanding of the complexity of ground and surface water resources and the impacts of resource use.
- Ongoing requirement to upgrade technical skills for hydrographic staff in a period of transition to electronic based data recording and transmission system.
- Record rainfalls put considerable pressure on the hydrographic network, however it performed above expectations due to the ongoing site maintenance and the positioning of on-ground staff prior to the onset of the forecast rainfall.
- Recruitment and retention of experienced staff was increasingly difficult in the face of high financial rewards offered by the private sector, particularly the minerals sector.

Future Priorities in 2007-08: Water Resources

- Amend the *Water Act* to make legislation clearer, tighten regulation and compliance requirements, while meeting the Agency's obligation under the National Water Initiative.
- Design and implement a monitoring program to assess the performance of the Katherine-Tindal Water Allocation Plan.
- Implement the rural Darwin and Daly region bore metering project so data can be obtained to inform Water Allocation Planning.
- Develop a Water Allocation Plan for Mataranka and Daly River sub-catchments.

- Appoint a Water Advisory Committee for the Darwin rural area.
- Amend the *Water Act* to ensure Northern Territory non-urban water meters meet new Australian Standards and establish a non-urban metering implementation plan to meet National Water Initiative obligations.
- Attract, develop and retain professional and technical personnel with skills in the areas of water allocation planning, hydrology, hydrogeology and hydrography.
- 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 Northern Territory's surface water and groundwater resources.
- Continuation of the major operational stages of National Water Initiative funded projects in the Gulf, Daly and Darwin regions, including investigation drilling programs and the establishment of several new gauging stations.
- Ensure the hydrographic network is fully operational prior to the 2007-08 wet season.
- Undertake gaugings of the important low flow regime of rivers in the dry season, due to the increased requirement of environmental flow data during this period.
- Continue support for national research program Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge and Land and Water Australia programs to improve assessment and understanding of Northern Territory's water resources.
- Relocation of flood warning telemetry and data collection infrastructure from the Goyder Centre in Palmerston to the Chan Building in Darwin, to ensure continued operation in the event of a major disaster.

Output: Flood Forecasting

The Agency 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 Agency's flood forecasters, and knowing river characteristics; the height likely to be reached at certain points (such as towns or bridge crossings) can be estimated.

Performance Measures Output: Flood Forecasting		05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate	06-07 Actual	07-08 Estimate
Quantity	Installations ⁽¹⁾	23	25	26	31
Quality	Reliability of equipment	85%	85%	85%	85%
Timeliness	Services delivered within agreed timeframes	95%	95%	95%	95%

Note

1. The increase in number of installations in 2007-08 will be funded by an increase in recurrent funding of \$444 000 for the output beginning in 2007-08. 'Installations' refer to the number of flood forecasting stations the Agency maintains, upgrades, as well as new installations.

Key Achievements in 2006-07: Flood Forecasting

- In a year where flooding occurred across many parts of the Northern Territory 100 flood advices were issued as follows:
 - Upper Katherine River (Nitmiluk) 4
 - Upper Roper River (Beswick) 20
 - Daly River (Naiyu) 28
 - Adelaide River (Township) 4
 - Todd River (Alice Springs) 44
- All forecasts were accurate in terms of the estimates provided and subsequent revision due to rainfall and upstream river rises.

- Installed a new rainfall station in the Daly River catchment and upgraded telemetry instrumentation for two existing stations in the Alice Springs Todd River catchment.

Challenges in 2006-07: Flood Forecasting

- The 2006-07 wet season was extremely busy with flooding occurring across a large portion of Central Australia in January. Drought breaking heavy rain occurred in the Alice Springs District in late January, many stations recorded more than 100 mm, several locations received more than half of its annual average rainfall. Flooding caused by the widespread heavy rainfall cut the Stuart Highway north of Alice Springs.
- Large scale flooding, due to a monsoon trough that later evolved into Tropical Cyclone George, across the north coast of the Top End in March saw the Police, Fire and Emergency Services and other Northern Territory Government Agencies seek additional and explanatory information from this Agency. The monsoon trough caused significant flooding on the coastal flood plains, with flooding at the Oenpelli community in Arnhem Land, the worst in 60 years with 47 houses flooded. Adelaide River Township also had its highest flood level ever recorded at 13 metres, with flooding in the vicinity causing damage to the Darwin to Adelaide Railway line.

Future Priorities in 2007-08: Flood Forecasting

- Ensure 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 flood forecasting in accordance with available resources, including the ability of rainfall and stream height gauges to provide the necessary data for accurate forecasting.

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.

There is one Output within this Output Group:

- Environment Protection Agency Program

Output: Environment Protection Agency Program

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

Performance Measures Output: Environment Protection Agency Program		05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate	06-07 Actual	07-08 Estimate
Quantity	Environmental assessment reports to Minister	4	7	7 ⁽¹⁾	6
	Licences and approvals administered	54	60	74 ⁽²⁾	65
	Capacity to provide advice about environmental protection and climate change matters ⁽³⁾	\$2.18M	\$2.5M	\$2.4M	\$2.5M
Quality	Stakeholder satisfaction with advice	78%	80%	82.5% ⁽⁴⁾	80%
Timeliness	Meet statutory timeframes established under relevant legislation	83%	100%	100%	100%

Notes

1. Timelines for Public Environmental Reports and Environmental Impact Assessments to be submitted to Environmental Assessments are in the hands of proponents. The EPA Program can only estimate the number based on proposals that have been submitted. On occasions proposals are withdrawn or the environmental work required takes more than a year to complete.
2. Licences and Approvals include 36 Waste Discharge Licenses, 16 Landfills and 17 Waste Handlers, an approval for the construction of the Eni Blacktip Gas Processing Plant and a licence to operate the Conoco Phillips Facility.
3. Environment Protection Agency Program's employee actual budget for the year.
4. Stakeholder satisfaction with advice varies, depending if complete environmental protection is seen as the outcome or if environmentally managed projects are the outcome.

Key Achievements in 2006-07: Environment Protection Agency Program

- Completed environmental assessments of:
 - McArthur River Mine Open Cut Project;
 - Quarantine Waste Treatment Facility;
 - Victoria Highway Upgrading to Improve Flooding Immunity;
 - Frances Creek Iron Ore Mine;
 - Mount Porter Gold Project; and
 - Bonaparte Gas Pipeline.
- Commenced assessment of:
 - Molyhil Tungsten and Molybdenum Project;
 - Matilda Minerals Aircraft Landing Area;
 - Maud Creek Gold Project;
 - Burnside Princess Louise and North Point Project; and
 - Browns Oxide Project.
- Undertook environmental compliance of:
 - East Arm Bulk Storage Facility;
 - Alcan Gove;
 - Victoria Highway Upgrade;
 - Frances Creek Mine;
 - Darwin City Waterfront Development;
 - Lyons Residential Village;
 - Australian Aquaculture;
 - Conoco Philips Liquid Natural Gas Plant Wickham Point;
 - Vopak Fuel Terminal East Arm Wharf;
 - Biodiesel Plant East Arm Wharf; and
 - Interim Waste Incinerator East Arm Wharf.
- Supported the interim EPA Board in consulting with the Territory community and formulating recommendations to the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage about the form and function of the future EPA.
- Commenced a three year program to develop a [Water Quality Protection Plan for Darwin Harbour](#) through consultation and in partnership with the [Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee](#), the Northern Territory Department of Planning and Infrastructure and the Australian Government.
- Finalised negotiation of the West Arnhem Fire Management Agreement with the Darwin Liquefied Natural Gas Plant to reduce emissions from savanna fires over the next 17 years leading to:
 - an average reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 100 000 tonnes;
 - positive biodiversity outcomes; and
 - provision of employment and sustainable income to the Traditional Owners and land managers of the region.
- Presented a series of public information sessions in partnership with the Bureau of Meteorology aimed at raising public awareness of climate change and its potential impacts on the Northern Territory, and of the need to consider how Territorians respond to such impacts. Sessions were held in April and May 2007 at:
 - Darwin;
 - Nhulunbuy;
 - Tennant Creek;
 - Katherine; and
 - Alice Springs.

- Developed and secured funding of \$200 000 for implementation of the **Re-thinking Waste Disposal and Resource Efficiency Interim Action Plan**, which endeavours to integrate waste resource recovery and litter management with regional development and capacity building by engaging industry, local councils and schools to rethink their waste management.
- Completed annual status report for the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee (DHAC) on the implementation of the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management, and assisted DHAC in disseminating information through newsletters, a newspaper feature and representation at public events such as World Environment Day.
- Led the Northern Territory involvement in national climate change policy development, including a State and Territory proposal for a National Emissions Trading Scheme, the Council of Australian Government's National Adaptation Framework, and agreement to a National Mandatory Public Greenhouse Gas Emissions reporting system for industry.
- Reported on the operations and impacts of the Larrakeyah sewage outfall and reviewed and reissued waste discharge licences for Power and Water Corporation waste treatment facilities in Darwin and Katherine, Cosmo Howley and Alcan Gove operations.
- Provided funding of \$269 960 to 34 community environmental projects and provided operational support of \$200 000 to five organisations through the 2006-07 **EnvironmentNT Grant program**.
- Provided a total funding of \$100 000 to **COOLmob** which works with the community to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions through home energy efficiency. Funding of \$50 000 was granted to Darwin and Alice Springs for administering the Cool Community program.
- Extended monitoring of the ecological health of the aquatic environment to the Daly River catchment.

- Implemented stormwater management actions such as:
 - development of a **Draft Stormwater Strategy** and its exhibition for public comment;
 - monitoring water quality of stormwater discharge into Darwin Harbour;
 - development of a Coastal Catchment Initiative partnership with the Northern Territory Department of Planning and Infrastructure for a Water Sensitive Urban Design project to be trialled at Palmerston's Bellamack sub-division; and
 - preparation of Draft Industry Guidelines and Code of Practice for Sediment and Erosion Control.
- Coordinated implementation of the **Northern Territory Strategy for Greenhouse Action 2006** and provided Cabinet with a progress report.
- Worked with the Agency's Natural Resource Management Division to refine the National Carbon Accounting System for use in assessing land clearing proposals.
- Issued an environmental approval for the Blacktip Onshore Gas Plant and a licence for the ConocoPhillips Liquefied Natural Gas Plant under the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act*.

Challenges in 2006-07: Environment Protection Agency Program

- Meeting the requirements of the new Environment Protection Authority and its priorities following the public consultation outcomes to ensure it is operational by 2008. The EPA's charter will include:
 - reviewing legislation;
 - setting standards and guidelines for environmental management; and
 - scrutinising how Government agencies administer environmental legislation and policies.

- Continuing to meet the demands of a booming economy and community while balancing industry expectations and environmental protection.
- Identifying and implementing continuous improvement in delivering core functions of environmental assessment and regulation.
- Managing the increasing national and local focus on climate change and the demand this has placed on the Environment Protection Agency Program.
- Negotiating with industry, research and community partners to develop and implement priority projects such as re-thinking waste management, developing industry specific guidelines for managing the environmental impacts of activities and monitoring the environment.

Future Priorities in 2007-08: Environment Protection Agency Program

- Working with the new Environment Protection Authority to begin reviews of the *Environmental Assessment Act* and the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act*.
- Further develop a Water Quality Protection Plan for Darwin Harbour and its catchment by:
 - reviewing the beneficial uses of the region;
 - developing water quality objectives and a water quality model to predict the impact of nutrient pollution on water quality; and
 - finalising the Draft Stormwater Strategy.
- Develop industry guidelines for managing the impacts of activities on the environment.
- Support the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee in reviewing the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management through community consultation and stakeholder liaison.

- Continue to coordinate climate change policy development and implementation at a national and Territory level, including leading the Northern Territory's involvement in the Garnaut Review of the economic impacts of climate change on Australia, and reviewing the Territory's Strategy for Greenhouse Action 2006.
- Finalise the 2007-08 EnvironmeNT Grants program including settling funding agreements and project performance reporting requirements.
- Monitor and report on the water quality of stormwater entering Darwin Harbour and on the quality of water in the Daly River.
- Working with the Re-thinking Waste Advisory Group to implement the Re-think projects under the Re-thinking Waste Disposal and Resource Efficiency Interim Action Plan, including working with industry to develop waste minimisation plans for the hospitality and building industries, and working with local government to establish better waste management practices in communities.
- Implement noise guidelines for priority urban noise issues in the Northern Territory.
- Continue to identify the parameters of an air quality system for the Northern Territory.

Output Group: Heritage Conservation

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

There is one Output within this Output Group:

- Heritage Conservation Services

Output: Heritage Conservation Services

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

Performance Measures Output: Heritage Conservation Services		05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate	06-07 Actual	07-08 Estimate
Quantity	Assessment reports to Heritage Advisory Council	19	21	20	16
	Capacity to provide assistance to private owners of heritage places	\$0.16M	\$0.2M	\$0.2M	\$0.2M
	Capacity to maintain Government-owned heritage facilities	\$0.74M	\$1.0M	\$0.74M ⁽¹⁾	\$1.0M
Quality	Stakeholder satisfaction with advice	85%	80%	88%	80%
Timeliness	Meet statutory timeframes established by the <i>Heritage Conservation Act</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%

Notes

1. Projects to the value of \$1 million were commenced, however some were not completed in the anticipated timeframe due to the current high demand for tradesmen within the building industry.

Key Achievements in 2006-07: Heritage Conservation Services

- Continued to implement the Northern Territory Government's 10 year \$10 million Repairs and Maintenance Program for heritage assets, with significant conservation works delivered on:
 - Government House, Darwin;
 - the Connellan Hangar, Alice Springs;
 - Cape Don Lighthouse;
 - Tennant Creek Telegraph Station; and
 - Barrow Creek Telegraph Station.
- Successfully implemented the \$200 000 annual Northern Territory Government Heritage Grants Program, which provided funding for 17 projects to assist owners with the conservation, management, documentation and research of heritage places and objects across the Northern Territory, including:
 - the 'Spotted Tiger' culture and knowledge education project (Arltarpilta Community Government Council);
 - Nguiu Catholic Mission Precinct, Bathurst Island;
 - St Barbara's Church, Batchelor; and
 - Magistrates House, Darwin.
- Addition of 12 places to the Northern Territory Heritage Register which included:
 - Flynn's Farm near Batchelor;
 - Vestey's Tank at Bullocky Point, Darwin;
 - Warruwi Church, South Goulbourn Island;
 - the Gurindji Wave Hill Walk Off Route near Kalkarindji;
 - Frew Ponds Overland Telegraph Line Memorial Reserve near Dunmarra;

- Banka Banka Mudbrick Homestead near Tennant Creek;
- Crash Site of B-24D Liberator Nothing Sacred, Hayes Creek;
- 1869 Virginia Townsite Survey Markers;
- Milkwood Tree corner Woods and Foelsche Street, Darwin;
- Hunter House, Katherine;
- Sue Wah Chin building on Cavenagh Street, Darwin; and
- Eldo Rocket Shelters in the Barkly and Central Australia regions.
- Completed the drafting instructions for the new *Heritage Act* and commenced drafting of the Bill to go before Parliament.
- Undertook a research program with public participation on the shipwreck of the *Booya* in Darwin Harbour in order to map the wreck site and document associated marine life.
- Completed the first stage of the development of an online version of rebuilding the Northern Territory Heritage Register.

Challenges in 2006-07: Heritage Conservation Services

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

Future Priorities in 2007-08: Heritage Conservation Services

- Finalise drafting instructions of the new *Heritage Act* to go before Parliament.
- Upload existing data, test and launch new internet version of the Northern Territory Heritage Register.

Output Group: **Scientific and Cultural Collections**

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

There are two Outputs within this Output Group:

- Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory
- Herbarium

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

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

Performance Measures Output: Museums and Art Galleries of the NT		05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate	06-07 Actual	07-08 Estimate
Quantity	Visitors	298 876	230 000	331 137 ⁽¹⁾	230 000
	Major exhibitions	9	5	7 ⁽²⁾	2
	Grants and sponsorships received and managed	\$0.448M	\$0.3M	\$0.77M ⁽³⁾	\$0.3M
	Grants	16	5	24 ⁽⁴⁾	5
Quality	Visitor satisfaction	97%	95%	97%	95%
	Acquisitions that meet collection policy	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Collection accessible to the public	10%	10%	10%	10%
Timeliness	Public programs delivered within published delivery dates	100%	100%	100%	100%

Notes

1. Increased attendances at the Bullocky Point, Darwin facility (in excess of 240 000) contributed to the variation to the estimated figure. Increases were as a result of programming popular exhibitions such as the *Australia Under Attack 1942–1943* and *National Treasures from Australia's Great Libraries* exhibitions, and strategic marketing initiatives.
2. Two additional exhibitions were secured to mark key events in Northern Territory history including *Australia Under Attack 1942–1943* to mark the 65th anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin and *National Treasures from Australia's Great Libraries*.
3. The value of grants managed exceeded estimates as there was considerable carry forward of external grants managed by the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.
4. The number of grants received exceeded estimates as the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory was successful in applying for new initiatives, such as the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) funded Museum to Museum Program.

Key Achievements in 2006-07: Museums and Art Galleries of the NT

- A total visitation of 240 650 people at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Bullocky Point.
- Secured external funds in excess of estimates to attain higher standards of cultural and artistic exploration and expression and developed meaningful and enduring relations with regional neighbours, such as the Ministry of Education and Culture, Timor Leste, through the Museum to Museum Program and AusAID funded Australian Leadership Awards Fellowship Program.
- Established an online education bookings service on the Agency's internet site.
- Strehlow Research Centre completed the new Hezekial Malbunka – Tjilpa Man exhibition in the Museum of Central Australia.

Challenges in 2006-07: Museums and Art Galleries of the NT

- Maintaining the level of service for core business functions when numerous staff retirements have resulted in a departure of skills, knowledge and experience.

Future Priorities in 2007-08: Museums and Art Galleries of the NT

- Secure additional sponsors to ensure the future viability of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award.
- Develop improved partnerships with relevant agencies and communities to ensure Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory has the capability to meet the demands of the Repatriation of Indigenous Cultural Property Program.
- Ensure the scoping study for the proposed World War II Defence of Darwin Museum meets Northern Territory Government and community needs and interests.

Output: Herbarium

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

Performance Measures Output: Herbarium		05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate	06-07 Actual	07-08 Estimate
Quantity	Number of specimens in the collection	222 000	230 000	232 304 ⁽¹⁾	234 000
Quality	Standard of curation of botanical collections ⁽²⁾	97%	90%	95%	90%
Timeliness	Project milestones met	90%	90%	90%	90%

Notes

1. The Herbarium collection grows in the number of specimens daily. There is no set expected number of yearly acquisitions as the Herbarium participates in an exchange program with other herbaria. Staff are also active in the field and adding to the collection through various plant surveys.
2. To audit curation standards, random specimen accession numbers are generated and then matched against specimens in the herbarium database. Specimens are then assessed for retrievability, correct nomenclature, damage, correctness of processing, and whether archived correctly.

Key Achievements in 2006-07: Herbarium

- Enhanced the Herbarium's knowledge of the Northern Territory flora by completing a comprehensive revision of the conservation status of all Northern Territory plant species, using established international standards.
- Enhanced the Herbarium's knowledge of the Northern Territory flora through collecting new data for assessment of data deficient plant species at Bradshaw, Spirit Hills Conservation Reserve, and around Gove.

- Preserved and enhanced the Herbarium specimen collection with completion of stage two of the herbarium specimen storage enhancement, which involved a third of the collection moved into 3300 new plastic purpose manufactured boxes.
- Preserved 6198 herbarium specimens to the main collection from Darwin and Alice Springs.
- Provided 876 hours of advice to the public, non-Government researchers, interstate agencies, Greening Australia, consultants, and other Northern Territory Government Departments on flora queries.
- Identified 2429 plant specimens for the public (Darwin 1579; Alice Springs 850).
- Provided research facilities of 215 days Public Reference Identification room used by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Services, Agency staff and consultants.
- Updated the public plant reference set for ease of use.
- Enhanced the Herbarium's public profile through media coverage including a feature on ABC TV's Stateline program.

Challenges in 2006-07: Herbarium

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

Future Priorities in 2007-08: Herbarium

- Publish Volume 1 of the landmark plant reference – *The Flora of the Darwin Region*.
- Enable the Herbarium Specimen Database (Holtze) on the Agency's Internet site.

Output Group: Arts and Screen Industry Support

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

There are two Outputs within this Output Group:

- Arts and Screen Sector
- The Araluen Centre

Output: Arts and Screen Sector

The Arts and Screen Sector provides financial and in-kind support 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.

Performance Measures		05-06	06-07	06-07	07-08
Output: Arts and Screen Sector		Actual	Estimate	Actual	Estimate
Quantity	Grants managed	813	700	908 ⁽¹⁾	700
	Grants distributed	\$5.25M	\$5.66M	\$6.2M ⁽²⁾	\$5.36M
Quality	Stakeholder satisfaction	N/A	85%	85%	85%
Timeliness	Grants paid within agreed timeframes	100%	100%	100%	100%

Notes

1. Grants managed include new applications and grants from previous years that run over multiple years before final acquittal. (463 applications in 2006-07, 213 applications from the 2005-06 financial year grants were outstanding, and 232 grants were acquitted 2005-06 financial year).
2. The increase in value of grants distributed is due to one off additional initiatives \$0.24m Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association – *Double Trouble* childrens television series, \$0.20M Bazmark – *Australia*, \$0.105M Darwin International Airport – Public Art Project.

Key Achievements in 2006-07: Arts and Screen Sector

- Distributed \$6.2 million in government arts grants funding to 284 organisations/people.
- Completed an external review of *Building Strong Arts Business (BSAB)*, an ongoing strategy that focuses on Northern Territory Government programs and services that grow and strengthen the Territory's Indigenous arts sector. This led to the development of a stage two BSAB Plan of Action as a whole of Government strategy with bi-annual progress reports to Cabinet.

- Upgraded and refurbished office spaces at Frog Hollow Centre for the Arts and at Browns Mart Reserve for two arts organisations – the Darwin Festival and the Darwin Theatre Company.
- Appointed a new **Arts Grants Board** consisting of eight members (including the Chair) for a fixed term of three years.
- Published the Northern Territory Film Office's status report *The Territory on Screen: 2003-2006* that includes detailed activities/achievements and breakdown of screen grants funding.
- Provided a \$200 000 grant to the Baz Luhrman film *Australia*, reconvened the Northern Territory Government's Film Taskforce to assist film makers with logistical support including images, talent information, location scouts, and logistical support to secure filming parts of the movie in Darwin.
- Launched joint initiative with NT Writers' Year of the Screenplay to support and develop Territorians writing feature scripts.
- Provided support for the feature film *Ten Canoes*, shot in Arnhem Land which screened at Cannes Film Festival and won Australian Film Institute and Inside Film Awards.
- Offered the \$20 000 inaugural Declan Aputimi/J Bird commemorative Public Art Fellowship to support professional development opportunities for contemporary artists in public art practice.
- Funded Warlpiri Media production *Aboriginal Rules*, a documentary about Australian Rules Football and the Yuendumu Magpies.
- Assisted two inbound export trade missions in partnership with Austrade and the Department of the Chief Minister for overseas buyers from the United States of America and Europe for Indigenous visual arts in May and June.
- Provided a grant to the documentary *Kanyini* that allowed post production of the film to be completed. This later won an Inside Films Award.

Challenges in 2006-07: Arts and Screen Sector

- Providing access to arts resources to a geographically dispersed, isolated and multicultural community which faces unavoidable additional costs in funding and supporting arts and cultural activity compared to the larger states due to:
 - diseconomies of scale;
 - isolation and the costs of goods and service delivery in remote areas; and
 - limitations to funding arts activity, performance and tours through corporate and private sponsorships.
- Supporting a physical infrastructure for arts and cultural activity including direct funding and in-kind support through provision of office, rehearsal, workshop and storage accommodation within existing resources.
- Working within existing resources to provide funding to triennial and annual funding to key arts organisations in a highly competitive environment.
- Withdrawal of the initial Katherine Regional Cultural Precinct site by the Katherine Town Council and, subsequently hydrology and site evaluation consultancies were commissioned to explore future appropriate sites. The high level implementation committee comprising Katherine Town Council and Northern Territory Government officers was instigated.

Future Priorities in 2007-08: Arts and Screen Sector

- Implement the *Building Strong Arts Business Plan of Action 2006-2009* as a Whole of Government strategy including outsourcing positions to the non-government sector to build capacity and achieve strategic goals.
- Scope, develop and implement a new database upgrade for arts grants management and provision of statistical information on the sector.
- Finalise site and management options for stage one of the Katherine Regional Cultural Precinct to include the construction of a regional standard gallery and outdoor performance space following outcomes from a hydrology study currently being undertaken by the Agency.
- Develop a Northern Territory Government funding policy for Arts and Cultural Centres and Regional Museums.
- Plan and implement the biennial national Regional Arts Conference Art at the Heart in Alice Springs in October 2008.
- Conduct a review of Northern Territory Arts and Cultural infrastructure.
- Refine and implement the Key Arts Organisations Program and Funding Framework.
- Progress the inclusion of major public art installations in the Darwin Waterfront Project.
- Review industry status of Northern Territory Film Office and its capacity to develop an industry vision along with an economic development plan.
- Progress capacity building of the Indigenous sector of the screen industry.

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 Australia region.

Performance Measures Output: The Araluen Centre		05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate	06-07 Actual	07-08 Estimate
Quantity	Visitors to visual arts exhibitions	37 587	31 500	28 179 ⁽¹⁾	29 000
	Patrons to cinema and performances	23 826	28 000	23 870 ⁽²⁾	24 000
Quality	Visitor satisfaction with Araluen galleries experience	90%	90%	90%	95%
	Client satisfaction with Araluen theatre and cinema programs	90%	90%	90%	95%
Timeliness	Public programs delivered within published delivery dates	100%	100%	100%	100%

Notes

1. The visitors to the visual arts exhibitions result are now based on actual attendance at Araluen Galleries, not on visitation to all venues across the entire Alice Springs Cultural Precinct.
2. Visitation to cinema and performances remained at a similar level to 2005-06 due to a review of priorities. The market analysis of current and potential audiences has not been undertaken in order to generate an increase.

Key Achievements in 2006-07: The Araluen Centre

- Worked in partnership with the Alice Springs Desert Park to market the Alice Springs Cultural Precinct as a tourism destination to increase audience attendance.
- Developed a joint tour in association with Great Southern Rail and Cobb and Co. which delivers passengers from the Ghan Rail service to the Alice Springs Cultural Precinct and the Alice Springs Desert Park four times a week.
- Assisted with the ongoing development of the Alice Springs Beanie Festival, making the Araluen Centre's foyer available for workshops and other activities in order to cater for the increasing audiences.
- Presented the annual Desert Mob art exhibition and associated events, achieving an increased financial return to participating art centres by \$23 000.
- Hosted four sell out performances of Circus Oz at the Araluen centre.
- Participated as a venue for the 2006 Alice Springs Festival, including staging the sell-out Wearable Art Award.
- Retained audience levels for the Araluen Art House Cinema and Araluen Theatre Programs throughout the year.
- Presented a wide range of visual arts exhibitions, including exhibitions by local and nationally recognised artists.

Challenges in 2006-07: The Araluen Centre

- Maintaining visitation in a climate of increasing fuel prices in a locality where most visitors travel by road.
- Increasing community usage of the venue given the development of other similar facilities in Alice Springs, especially within local schools.

Future Priorities in 2007-08: The Araluen Centre

- Develop a sponsorship base for the annual Desert Mob art exhibition to provide increased arts industry support and create a national profile for the exhibition.
- Increase audiences for arts product at the Araluen Centre by undertaking a market analysis study of current and potential audiences.
- Continue to develop the grounds of the Alice Springs Cultural Precinct to become a desert landscape feature in partnership with the Alice Springs Desert Park.
- Develop a new, permanent exhibition at the Araluen Art Centre, documenting and analysing the history and development of Indigenous art in Central Australia by language group regions as part of the Northern Territory Government's *Moving Alice Ahead* initiative, to grow the Indigenous arts sector.
- Install a new airconditioning plant, linked to the development of a solar power station as part of the Alice Springs Solar Cities project.
- Develop a Master Plan for development at the site over the next 10 years.

GBD: Territory Wildlife Parks

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

There are two Business Lines within this Government Business Division:

- Alice Springs Desert Park
- Territory Wildlife Park

Business Line: Alice Springs Desert Park

The Alice Springs Desert Park 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.

Performance Measures Business Line: Alice Springs Desert Park		05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate	06-07 Actual	07-08 Estimate
Quantity	Visitors	90 040	87 000	91 042 ⁽¹⁾	91 000
	Key new visitor experiences	2	4	4 ⁽²⁾	3
Quality	Visitor satisfaction	96%	95%	97%	95%
Timeliness	Daily guide presentations commenced on time	97%	90%	97%	90%

Notes

1. Increased visitation due to target marketing, special events, new products and the increase in functions at the Park.
2. Created new visitor experiences including:
 - AAT Kings and GRUS Travel full park cultural tours;
 - Great Southern Rail natural history tours;
 - DesArt in the Park Indigenous night markets; and
 - Tjanpi Basket Weaving.

Key Achievements in 2006-07: Alice Springs Desert Park

- Awarded two Northern Territory Brolga Awards for Tourism Excellence: Major Tourist Attraction and Ecotourism and re-accredited with Advanced Ecotourism Accreditation.
- Continued to develop the Aboriginal Employment and Training Program with results including:
 - the first two people in Australia to graduate from a purpose designed zookeeper traineeship, akin to an apprenticeship, were two Central Australian female Indigenous Alice Springs Desert Park staff members;
 - two guide apprentices also completed their apprenticeships, one commenced temporary employment and the other casual employment at the Park;
 - one horticulture apprentice commenced third year studies; and
 - one horticulture apprentice and two zookeeping apprentices commenced their studies for the first time.
- Introduced an Attraction Passport with the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Alice Springs Reptile Centre, School of the Air and Alice Springs Telegraph Station to provide discounted entry prices into each of the attractions.
- Celebrated the Alice Springs Desert Park's 10th birthday with 2700 people attending, including 2265 locals.
- Hosted a National Environmental Education Summit with national and international delegates via the Federal Environmental Education Grants Program – Department of Environment and Heritage.
- Hosted Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council Tjanpi Desert Weavers for monthly weaving workshops with Alice Springs Desert Park visitors.
- Developed new children's website pages with local primary school students, Arrernte elders and students in Tucson Arizona.
- Sold 2258 Territorians Passes (unlimited yearly park access for the price of one admission fee) with 3175 Territorian Pass visits.
- Provided free entry to 3021 Northern Territory school students.
- Released 25 red-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale calura*) into the Alice Springs Desert Park greater site.
- Participated in the Kew Gardens England Millennium Seed Bank Project for long term seed conservation.
- Continued to provide economic opportunities for the Central Arrente Apmere-atyeye (Traditional Owners) and, through consultation, began future development plans and a clearance process to extend the fence line to the west in addition to providing substantial logistical support to participate in the two DesArt in the Park Indigenous night markets.
- Co-hosted three desert guides professional development seminar evenings for Central Australia tour guides at the Alice Springs Desert Park with the Central Australian Tourism Industry Association and Tourism NT.
- Produced 70 Eremophila plants at the Alice Springs Desert Park and donated them to Ampilatwatja community for a horticultural endeavour with this medicinal plant, reducing pressure on wild specimens.
- Conducted planning surveys with visitors and locals to assist with the future direction and management.
- Developed and delivered regular thematic full park tours for AAT Kings, GRUS Travel and GSR guest.
- Installed car park lighting to expand the capacity for night functions.

- Continued to host a third year Indigenous Apprentice Horticulturist for Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre and provided substantial technical and physical assistance with the development of a bush tomato plantation.
- Conducted approximately 200 familiarisation tours and attended four trade and consumer shows to increase awareness and visitation to the Park.
- Hosted 14 commercial functions, two art festivals, 13 weddings, seven public events and provided a venue for 10 meetings.

Challenges in 2006-07: Alice Springs Desert Park

- Continue the Park's strong emphasis on further integration of planning and activities with regional and community aspirations and developments.
- Take the Park, and all of its work, firmly into the field of Education for Sustainable Development.

Future Priorities in 2007-08: Alice Springs Desert Park

- Complete the master planning process and develop an integrated visitor experience plan.
- Commence guided night activities and guided morning bird walks to diversify the experiences available to visitors and increase the use of the park outside standard opening hours.
- Contribute to the Northern Territory Government's *Moving Alice Ahead* initiative for Alice Springs through projects such as:
 - Indigenous Arts and Culture;
 - workforce Development and the Red Centre Way: to build and strengthen the region's economy; and
 - attracting more visitors to the region.

- Complete interactive website pages that will allow potential visitors to plan their own natural and cultural Central Australian experiences, enabling effective planning, maximising potential for enjoyment and providing links to other opportunities in the region.

Business Line: Territory Wildlife Park

The Territory Wildlife Park showcases the Top End's unique fauna and flora in a series of natural habitats that are 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.

Performance Measures Business Line: Territory Wildlife Park		05-06 Actual	06-07 Estimate	06-07 Actual	07-08 Estimate
Quantity	Visitors	66 283	75 000	70 618 ⁽¹⁾	75 000
	Key new visitor experiences	2	4	3 ⁽²⁾	3
Quality	Visitor satisfaction	96%	95%	97%	95%
Timeliness	Daily guide presentations commenced on time	90%	90%	95%	90%

Notes

- Increased park visitation from 2005-06 due to target marketing, an increase in special events and promotion of the Territorian Pass (unlimited yearly park access for the price of one admission fee).
- Created new visitor experiences including:
 - Removed walls and created mixed species exhibits along the Monsoon Forest Walk to make the visitor feel more immersed in the natural forest;
 - Upgraded the Main Station to create a vibrant and visual environment with clear orientation; and
 - Hosted two Burning for Biodiversity community education field days aimed at local landholders.

Key Achievements in 2006-07: Territory Wildlife Park

- Increased visitor numbers with a 6.5 per cent increase since last financial year, which is the most significant increase in visitor numbers in the past ten years.
- Employed a dedicated marketing manager, implemented a new marketing strategy and began re-branding with the production of a compelling new brochure.
- Completed stage three of the interpretation upgrade as part of the transition from a wildlife park to a habitat based park (Biological Park) which included:
 - upgrading exhibits along the Monsoon Forest Walk to include mixed species exhibits;
 - closing the Arthropods and Reptiles display;
 - upgrading the Main Station with thematic photographic wall panels, large plasma screen and animal exhibits; and
 - developing a new orientation map to improve visitor navigation.
- Developed relationships with, sought involvement from, and provided economic opportunities for Kungarakana-Warrai custodians that included:
 - discussing future plans for developments;
 - completing a clearance process for repairs to the boardwalk in the Monsoon Forest; and
 - providing concession arrangement for textiles sales through the café.
- Implemented a 12 month plan of interactive and fun school holiday programs targeted towards Territorian Pass holders (unlimited yearly park access for the price of one admission fee), for example, hosting the Drumming Monkeys (puppet show with environmental theme).

- Initiated a process of community engagement as part of the **Burning for Biodiversity** program and conducted a field day for rural landowners.
- Developed a volunteer work experience program with eight Berry Springs High School Students and hosted 532 students for educational programs at Camp Calytrix, a camp designed for schools and community groups to learn more about the Territory Wildlife Park and its inhabitants at night.
- Provided free park entry to 5003 Northern Territory school children.
- Sold 6187 Territorian Passes (unlimited yearly park access for the price of one admission fee) with 3213 Territorian Pass visits.
- Established a yellow-snouted gecko (*Diplodactylus occultus*) breeding program and released 20 brush-tailed tree rats (*Conilurus penicillatus*) into the greater site.
- Continued existing threatened species breeding programs.
- Continued developing a new day and night Woodland Walk for future visitor experiences.
- Installed car park lighting to expand the Parks capacity to host night functions.
- Conducted approximately 200 familiarisation tours and attended five trade shows to showcase the Park, increase media exposure, industry awareness and for public relations purposes.
- Reversed the Park's train transportation route to improve the visitor experience and put greater emphasis on the Monsoon Forest as a must do experience.

Challenges in 2006-07: Territory Wildlife Park

- Damage caused by a fallen banyan tree closed half of the Monsoon Forest to visitors for six months. Consultation was undertaken with the Kungarakan custodians of the sacred site to repair the forest area.
- Constantly evolving the Park in line with changing market trends and customer needs.
- Highly seasonal nature of visitation poses a challenge to tourism operators.

Future Priorities in 2007-08: Territory Wildlife Park

- Commence guided night activities and bike rides to diversify the experiences available to visitors and increase the use of the Park outside standard opening hours.
- Build a freshwater whipray feeding pool and Burning for Biodiversity exhibit to enhance the visitor experience.
- Complete the development of an alfresco dining area at the café.
- Develop systems and models of leadership and project management that focus on delivering changes that will benefit visitors, the community and the Park.

Financial Statements



Financial Statements

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

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

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

Accordingly, two separate sets of financial statements are provided:

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

The Department's Financial Statement Overview

For the Year Ended 30 June 2007

This section of the report provides an analysis of the financial outcomes of the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts for the year ended 30 June 2007 – its second year of operation.

The financial statements in this report represent the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts (the 'Department') as well as consolidated statements (the 'Group') incorporating the Natural Resource Management Board of the Northern Territory (Inc.). Financial information is provided for both the Department and Group for 2006-07 and comparatively for 2005-06.

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

As the NRMB is an incorporated association it is required to prepare its own statement of accounts for the financial year so the following commentary on expenditure and revenue, from pages 153 to 158, relates only to the Department.

Operating Statement

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

In 2006-07, the Department made a loss of \$3.9 million compared to a loss of \$6.1 million in 2005-06. The Department does not receive funding for non-cash expenses such as depreciation and amortisation (\$4.9 million in 2006-07 and \$4.7 million in 2005-06). The Department records a profit of \$1.0 million in 2006-07 and loss of \$1.4 million in 2005-06 when adjusted for these expenses.

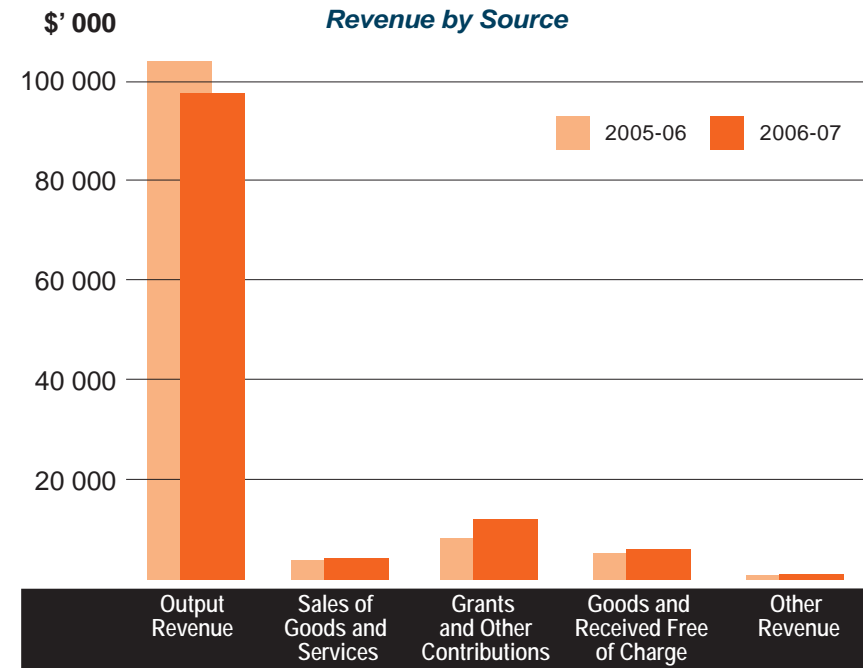
Revenue – Where the Dollars Came From

The Department received operating revenue of \$121 million in 2006-07 compared with \$122.6 million in 2005-06. The graph at right compares the Department's revenue by source for each financial year.

The Department is funded primarily through Northern Territory Parliamentary appropriation with the next major revenue source being grants from the Australian Government and other external funding bodies, and to a lesser degree charges for our goods and services.

The Department also recognises notional revenue from the Northern Territory Department of Corporate and Information Systems (DCIS) for services received free of charge. DCIS corporate services charges are recognised as a notional expense and offset with notional revenue. This income and expense item allows the Department to bring to account the cost of the centralised corporate services provided by DCIS.

In 2006-07 output revenue decreased by \$6.5 million compared to the previous year. This was due to one-off additional output appropriation received in 2005-06 to fund expenses carried forward from the Northern Territory agencies the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment, and the Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural affairs, from which the Department was formed in 2005-06, for which no cash was transferred.



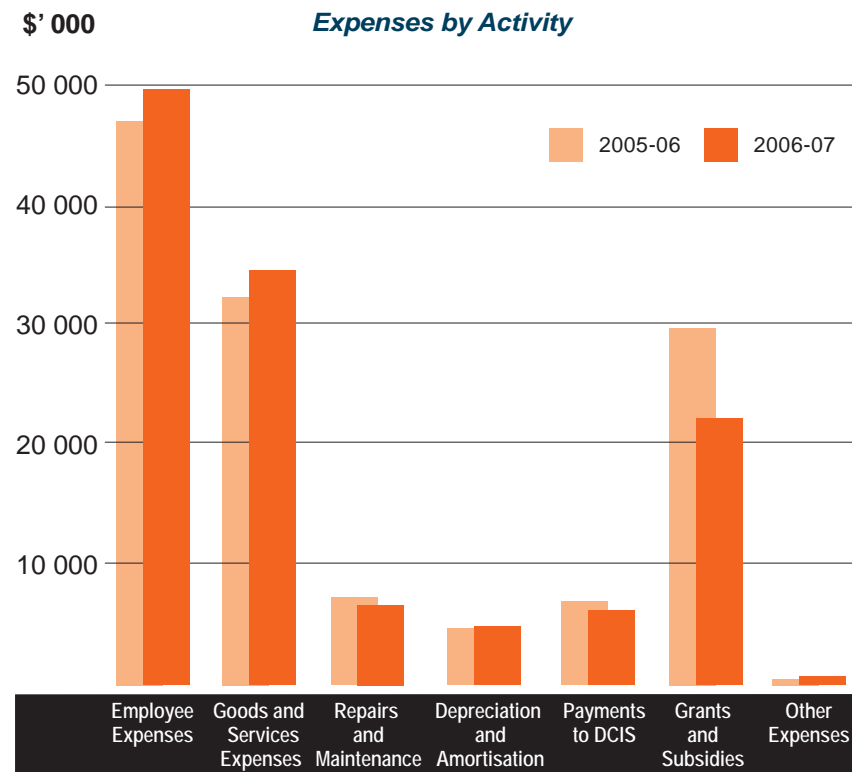
This lower appropriation was offset in part by grants and contributions which increased by 48 percent or \$3.9 million. This improvement reflects the increase in the number and value of external projects awarded to the Department. Significant grants received include:

- \$1.1 million for West Arnhem Fire Management, an innovative carbon offsets program;
- \$0.6 million for the Northern Territory Salinity and Water Quality Monitoring and Evaluation Trial; and
- \$0.5 million for the Gulf Water and Water Smart Australia Study.

Grant revenue is an essential part of the Department's funding and improves our capacity to deliver outcomes through the fostering of strategic partnerships with other governments, businesses and community groups.

Expenses – Where the Dollars Were Spent

In the delivery of its core activities, the Department incurred \$125 million in expenses during 2006-07, down \$3.7 million from the previous year. The graph below provides a breakdown of the primary components of the Department’s expenses for 2005-06 and 2006-07. This demonstrates that payments to employees and purchases of goods and services account for 67 percent of the Department’s outlays. Grants and subsidies, and repairs and maintenance are the other major Department expenses, with depreciation and DCIS’ charges representing non-cash transactions.



Employee Expenses

Employee expenses increased by 6 percent or \$2.6 million compared to the previous year. This is attributed to a pay increase for all employees negotiated under the 2004 Northern Territory Public Sector Workplace Agreement, and the employment of additional staff under short term contracts funded through external grants. The Department had 693 full time equivalent employees as at 30 June 2007 including 43 externally funded full time equivalents.

Goods and Services Expenses

The Department incurred numerous one-off expenses during the year that contributed to an increase in the purchases of goods and services of 7 percent or \$2.2 million compared to 2005-06. These expenses primarily relate to the increase in externally funded projects, costs associated with an extreme wildfire season, and the roll out of communications to remote national parks. These additional costs associated with delivering services in very remote localities, and expenditure associated with natural disaster events such as floods and wildfire management, continue to place increasing pressure on the Department financially and operationally.

Repairs and Maintenance

Reported repairs and maintenance decreased by \$0.6 million in 2006-07 however when this was adjusted for a write off of previously capitalised expenses relating to salt intrusion weirs in the Mary River, actual repairs and maintenance expenses increased by \$0.5 million.

Grants and Subsidies

In 2006-07 the Department distributed \$22.2 million in grants and subsidies. Grant and subsidy payments are reported as 25 percent or \$7.5 million lower in 2006-07 than in 2005-06. However, they are 18 percent or \$3.4 million higher once adjusting for a one-off payment of \$3.5 million in 2005-06 to the Katherine Town Council was made. This was completed under a Memorandum of Understanding for the construction of a cultural precinct in Katherine. Additionally, a change in accounting policy in 2005-06 resulting in an additional expense of \$7.1 million in recognition of a liability to the Australian Government for the NHT single holding account (now represented in the Department's balance sheet).

The Department's grant recipients included art organisations, natural resource management and biodiversity conservation community groups. Of these \$16.6 million were appropriation funded in the form of a Community Service Obligation payment of \$7.8 million to the Territory Wildlife Parks for the delivery of non commercial functions, and \$8.8 million funded under Northern Territory Government arts, regional museums, environment, heritage and wildlife management grant programs.

Externally funded grant payments of \$5.7 million were distributed in 2006-07 including \$3.3 million released under the Australian Government funded Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) Bilateral Agreement between the Australian and Northern Territory Governments which is administered through the Department.

Balance Sheet

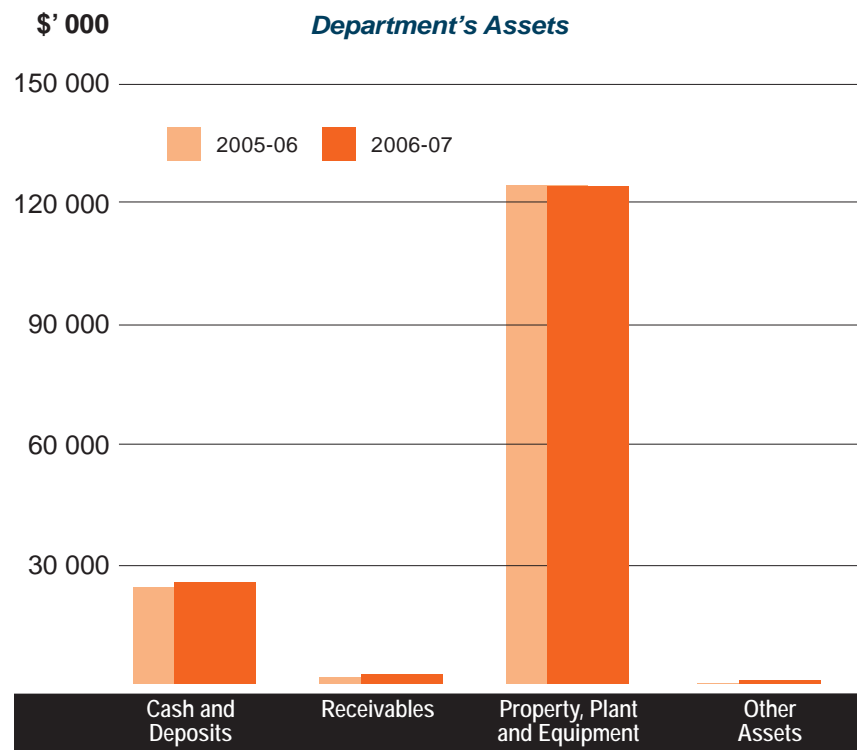
The Balance Sheet provides information on the Department’s financial position at the end of the financial year providing information on assets, liabilities and equity.

Assets – What We Control

The Department’s total assets of \$152.3 million as at 30 June 2007 represent an increase of \$2.5 million from the previous year. The graph illustrates the major asset components of cash and property, plant and equipment which together make up 98 percent of our asset base.

Cash and deposits of \$25.3 million were held as at 30 June 2007 compared to \$24.1 million as at June 2006 and include \$13.6 million (\$15.4 million the previous year) of Australian Government funds held in the National Heritage Trust (NHT) Single Holding Account. These funds are released when a decision is made by the NHT Joint Steering Committee to fund approved projects.

The Department’s property, plant and equipment assets total \$123.8 million as at 30 June 2007 and include land, buildings (eg. the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Bullocky Point, Araluen Arts Centre), infrastructure (eg. carparks, walking trails and shelters), transport equipment (eg. drilling rigs and auxiliary equipment) and information technology equipment. While the Department also holds a significant amount of works of art, cultural, and natural science collections in the Art Galleries of the Northern Territory, these were not valued and recognised for financial reporting purposes at 30 June 2007. The valuation of the primary art collection managed by the Department is currently underway along with the full collection of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.



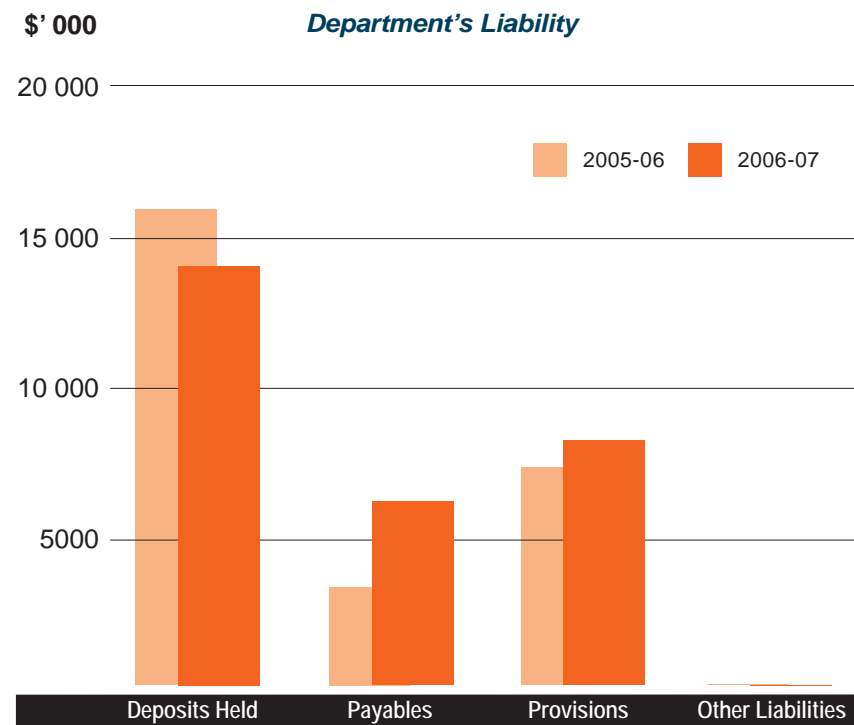
Liabilities – What We Owe

The Department’s total liabilities of \$28.1 million as at 30 June 2007 include an increase of \$1.8 million over the previous year. The graph below shows the components of liabilities as deposits held, payables (mainly trade creditors, accrued salaries and accrued expenses) and provisions for employee entitlements.

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

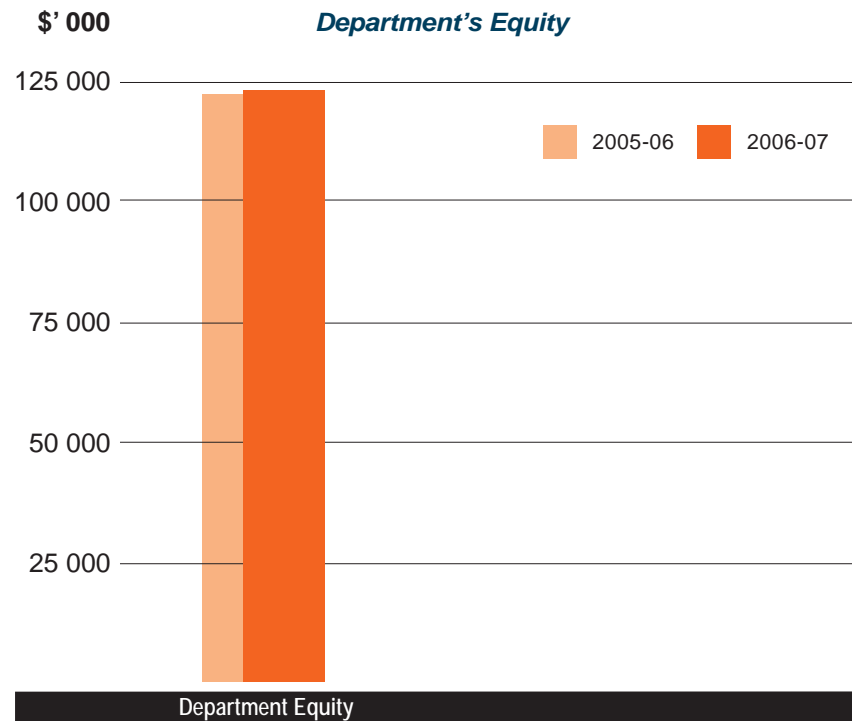
Payables represent the amount owing to creditors at 30 June 2007 for goods and services purchased and received. The significant increase of 86 percent reflects a large number of invoices received after 30 June 2007 for goods and services received before 30 June 2007.

Provisions for employee entitlements such as recreation leave and recreation leave fares were adjusted during the year to reflect the net present value of future entitlements.



Our Equity – What We are Worth

Equity is the Department's net assets ('what we own or control') less the liabilities that we are accountable for ('what we owe'). Equity as at 30 June 2007 was \$124.2 million, an increase of \$0.7 million over the previous year.



Statement of Cash Flow

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

Cash Flow Statement Summary	2006-07 \$'000	2005-06 \$'000
Net Cash from Operating Activities	3 419	2 505
Net Cash Used in Investing Activities	(822)	(590)
Net Cash from Financing Activities	(1 365)	22 158
Net Increase in Cash Held	1 232	24 073
Cash at Beginning of Reporting Period	24 073	0
Cash at End of Reporting Period	25 305	24 073

Net cash from operating activities was \$3.4 million in 2006-07, \$0.9 million more from the previous year, reflecting a decrease in appropriation being offset by higher levels of external funding through grants.

Net cash from investing activities of -\$0.8 million in 2006-07 reflects cash spent on major asset purchases during the year, an increased outlay of \$0.2 million over the previous year.

Net cash from financing activities reflects the difference between cash received into the NHT single holding account, and cash released from the account of -\$1.8 million in 2006-07 (\$0.4 million in 2005-06) and, \$0.5 million in parliamentary capital appropriation for the purchase of minor assets in both years. This category of cashflow in 2005-06 also includes cash transferred in to set up the Department in its first year of operation (\$5.9 million) as well as an opening cash balance for the NHT single holding account of \$15.4 million.

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 2007 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 Officer
5 September 2007



.....
Susan Kirkman
Chief Financial Officer
5 September 2007

Operating Statement for the year ended 30 June 2007

INCOME	Note	Department 2007 \$'000	Department 2006 \$'000	Group 2007 \$'000	Group 2006 \$'000
Grants and Subsidies Revenue -Current		12 134	8 224	17 825	10 582
Output Revenue		97 320	103 828	97 320	103 828
Sales of Goods and Services		4 348	3 888	3 802	3 888
Interest Revenue		743	512	744	512
Goods and Services Received Free of Charge	4	6 203	5 859	6 203	5 859
Gain on Disposal of Assets	5	6	9	6	9
Other Income		278	289	278	289
TOTAL INCOME	3	<u>121 032</u>	<u>122 609</u>	<u>126 178</u>	<u>124 967</u>
EXPENSES					
Employee Expenses		49 689	47 044	49 689	47 044
Administrative Expenses					
Purchases of Goods and Services	6	34 568	32 365	34 568	32 365
Repairs and Maintenance		6 672	7 279	6 672	7 279
Depreciation and Amortisation	10	4 885	4 699	4 885	4 699
Other Administrative Expenses ⁽¹⁾		6 212	6 984	6 212	6 984
Grants and Subsidies Expenses					
Current		14 109	18 469	18 826	20 827
Capital		264	3 500	264	3 500
Community Service Obligations		7 833	7 817	7 833	7 817
Interest Expenses		744	512	744	512
TOTAL EXPENSES	3	<u>124 976</u>	<u>128 669</u>	<u>129 693</u>	<u>131 027</u>
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	15	<u>(3 944)</u>	<u>(6 060)</u>	<u>(3 515)</u>	<u>(6 060)</u>

Note

1. Includes DCIS service charges.

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

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2007

	Note	Department 2007 \$'000	Department 2006 \$'000	Group 2007 \$'000	Group 2006 \$'000
ASSETS					
Current Assets					
Cash and Deposits	7	25 305	24 073	26 399	24 073
Receivables	8	2 379	1 593	1 714	1 593
Inventories	9	347	55	347	55
Advances and Investments		9	0	9	0
Prepayments		413	13	413	13
Total Current Assets		28 453	25 734	28 882	25 734
Non-Current Assets					
Property, Plant and Equipment	10	123 846	124 043	123 846	124 043
Total Non-Current Assets		123 846	124 043	123 846	124 043
TOTAL ASSETS		152 299	149 777	152 728	149 777
LIABILITIES					
Current Liabilities					
Deposits Held	14	13 919	15 786	13 919	15 786
Payables	11	6 091	3 259	6 091	3 259
Borrowings and Advances	12	0	2	0	2
Provisions	13	5 635	4 906	5 635	4 906
Other Liabilities	14	2	6	2	6
Total Current Liabilities		25 647	23 959	25 647	23 959
Non-Current Liabilities					
Provisions	13	2 491	2 324	2 491	2 324
Total Non-Current Liabilities		2 491	2 324	2 491	2 324
TOTAL LIABILITIES		28 138	26 283	28 138	26 283
NET ASSETS		124 161	123 494	124 590	123 494
EQUITY					
Capital	15	135 023	130 412	135 023	130 412
Reserves		535	535	535	535
Accumulated Funds		(11 397)	(7 453)	(10 968)	(7 453)
TOTAL EQUITY		124 161	123 494	124 590	123 494

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 2007

	Note	Department 2007 \$'000	Department 2006 \$'000	Group 2007 \$'000	Group 2006 \$'000
BALANCE OF EQUITY AT 1 JULY		123 494	0	123 494	0
Capital	15				
Balance at 1 July		130 412	0	130 412	0
Equity Injections		4 611	4 604	4 611	4 604
Net Effect of Administrative Restructure		0	125 808	0	125 808
Balance at 30 June		135 023	130 412	135 023	130 412
Reserves	15				
Balance at 1 July		535	0	535	0
Increase/(Decrease) in Asset Revaluation Reserve		0	535	0	535
Balance at 30 June		535	535	535	535
Accumulated Funds	15				
Balance at 1 July		(7 453)	0	(7 453)	0
Changes in Accounting Policies ^(a)		0	117	0	117
Correction of Prior Period Errors ^(b)		0	(1 510)	0	(1 510)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Period		(3 944)	(6 060)	(3 515)	(6 060)
Balance at 30 June		(11 397)	(7 453)	(10 968)	(7 453)
BALANCE OF EQUITY AT 30 JUNE		124 161	123 494	124 590	123 494

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 of \$0.499 million for employee entitlements balances and \$1.011 million for Property, Plant and Equipment that were transferred to the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts as part of the Administrative restructure in 2006 were incorrect. These balances have been corrected through equity and recognised as a correction of prior period errors.

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 30 June 2007

	Note	Department 2007 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows	Department 2006 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows	Group 2007 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows	Group 2006 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Operating Receipts					
Grants and Subsidies Received					
Current		12 134	8 224	17 825	10 582
Output Revenue Received		97 320	103 828	97 320	103 828
Receipts From Sales of Goods And Services		10 162	6 892	10 281	6 892
Interest Received		725	455	725	455
Total Operating Receipts		<u>120 341</u>	<u>119 399</u>	<u>126 151</u>	<u>121 757</u>
Operating Payments					
Payments to Employees		(48 777)	(46 560)	(48 777)	(46 560)
Payments for Goods and Services		(45 269)	(40 036)	(45 269)	(40 036)
Grants and Subsidies Paid					
Current		(14 109)	(18 469)	(18 826)	(20 827)
Capital		(264)	(3 500)	(264)	(3 500)
Community Service Obligations		(7 834)	(7 817)	(7 833)	(7 817)
Interest Paid		(669)	(512)	(669)	(512)
Total Operating Payments		<u>(116 922)</u>	<u>(116 894)</u>	<u>(121 638)</u>	<u>(119 252)</u>
Net Cash From/(Used In) Operating Activities	16	<u>3 419</u>	<u>2 505</u>	<u>4 513</u>	<u>2 505</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Investing Receipts					
Proceeds from Asset Sales	5	6	3	6	3
Total Investing Receipts		<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>
Investing Payments					
Purchases of Assets	10	(828)	(593)	(828)	(593)
Total Investing Payments		<u>(828)</u>	<u>(593)</u>	<u>(828)</u>	<u>(593)</u>
Net Cash From/(Used In) Investing Activities		<u>(822)</u>	<u>(590)</u>	<u>(822)</u>	<u>(590)</u>

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 30 June 2007

	Note	Department 2007 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows	Department 2006 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows	Group 2007 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows	Group 2006 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Financing Receipts					
Deposits Received		0	15 786	0	15 786
Equity Injections					
Capital Appropriation	15	520	520	520	520
Other Equity Injections		0	5 856	0	5 856
Total Financing Receipts		520	22 162	520	22 162
Financing Payments					
Deposits Paid		(1 866)	0	(1 866)	0
Finance Lease Payments	18	(2)	(4)	(2)	(4)
Equity Withdrawals		(17)	0	(17)	0
Total Financing Payments		(1 885)	(4)	(1 885)	(4)
Net Cash From/(Used In) Financing Activities		(1 365)	22 158	(1 365)	22 158
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held		1 232	24 073	2 326	24 073
Cash at Beginning of Financial Year	7	24 073	0	24 073	0
CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR		25 305	24 073	26 399	24 073

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

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4. Goods and Services Received Free of Charge
5. Gain on Disposal of Assets

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Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Objectives and Funding

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

- Conserving for posterity the Territory's parks and reserves, historic buildings, archives and permanent museum and art gallery collections
- Protecting heritage sites and objects and threatened wildlife
- Supporting community involvement in the environment and heritage and developing, promoting and growing the arts sector and screen industries by providing information, grants, and in-kind financial assistance
- Assessing and advising Government on environmental issues arising from proposed land uses and predicting and mitigating threats created by floods, climate change, wildfires, invasive species, resource degradation, and nuisance wildlife
- Investigating, monitoring, recommending and enforcing sustainable utilisation of natural resources including water, native vegetation and wildlife
- Creating commercial, educational and recreational opportunities through the use of natural resources, artistic and creative enterprises and government owned institutions

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 seven Output Groups as follows:

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

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

2. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Accounting

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

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

The form of 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 Northern 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.

(b) Department and Territory Items

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

Central Holding Authority

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

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

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

The Central Holding Authority recognises and records all Territory items, and as such, these items are not included in the Department's financial statements. However, as the Department is accountable for certain Territory items managed on behalf of Government, these items have been separately disclosed in note 23 - Schedule of Territory Items.

(c) Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information for the 2005-06 financial year has been reclassified to provide consistency with current year disclosures.

(d) Presentation and Rounding of Amounts

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

(e) Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes to accounting policies adopted in 2006-07 as a result of management decisions.

(f) Goods and Services Tax

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

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

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

(g) Income Recognition

Income encompasses both revenue and gains.

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

Output Revenue

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

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

Grants and Other Contributions

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

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

Sale of Goods

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

Rendering of Services

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

Interest Revenue

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

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 the Northern Territory Government, as gains when the Department obtains control of the asset or contribution. Contributions are recognised at the fair value received or receivable.

(h) Repairs and Maintenance Expenses

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

(i) Interest Expenses

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

(j) Cash and Deposits

For the purposes of the Balance Sheet and the Cash Flow Statement, cash includes cash on hand, cash at bank and cash equivalents. Cash equivalents are highly liquid short-term investments that are readily convertible to cash. Cash at bank includes monies held in the Accountable Officer's Trust Account (AOTA) that are ultimately payable to the beneficial owner – refer also to note 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 \$5000 are recognised in the year of acquisition and depreciated as outlined below. Items of property, plant and equipment below the \$5000 threshold are expensed in the year of acquisition.

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

Complex Assets

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

Subsequent Additional Costs

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

Construction (Work in Progress)

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

Revaluations

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

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

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

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

Depreciation and Amortisation

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

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

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

Asset	2007	2006
Buildings	50 Years	50 Years
Infrastructure Assets	8-50 Years	8-50 Years
Plant and Equipment	10 Years	10 Years
Leased Plant and Equipment	3-5 Years	3-5 Years
Heritage and Cultural Assets	100 Years	100 Years
Transport Equipment	10 Years	10 Years
Computer Hardware	3-6 Years	3-6 Years
Intangibles—Computer Software	3-6 Years	3-6 Years

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

Impairment of Assets

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(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) Group

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

The preparation and presentation of consolidated reporting recognises the Department's control over the Board consistent with the requirements contained in AAS 24.

	Note	Parks and Reserves		Biological Parks		Natural Resources		Environment Protection	
		2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
3. Operating Statement by Output Group – Department Only									
INCOME									
Taxation Revenue									
Grants and Subsidies Revenue									
Current		86	3	4	0	10 565	9 106	216	37
Output Revenue		29 058	28 764	10 264	8 160	29 806	37 269	4 300	3135
Sales of Goods and Services		825	944	25	16	2 055	912	33	636
Interest Revenue		0	0	0	0	743	512	0	0
Goods and Services Received Free of Charge	4	2 061	1 829	236	181	2 008	2 191	367	181
Gain on Disposal of Assets	5	0	0	0	0	0	9	1	0
Other Income		72	6	1	0	182	233	0	0
TOTAL INCOME		32 102	31 546	10 530	8 357	45 359	50 232	4 917	3 989
EXPENSES									
Employee Expenses		13 820	14 212	1 271	353	21 121	19 297	2 787	2 016
Administrative Expenses									
Purchases of Goods and Services	6	12 588	11 922	889	153	13 237	12 680	1 285	693
Repairs and Maintenance		3 598	3 578	117	20	323	106	0	0
Depreciation and Amortisation	10	2 797	2 757	75	39	488	377	32	3
Other Administrative Expenses ⁽¹⁾		2 062	1 831	238	181	2 010	2 197	369	181
Grants and Subsidies Expenses									
Current		226	54	158	2	7 015	14 534	608	758
Capital		0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Community Service Obligations		0	0	7 833	7 817	0	0	0	0
Interest Expenses	17	0	0	0	0	744	512	0	0
TOTAL EXPENSES		35 091	34 354	10 581	8 565	44 940	49 703	5 081	3 651
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	15	(2 989)	(2 808)	(51)	(208)	419	529	(164)	338

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

(1) Includes DCIS service charges.

	Note	Heritage Conservation Services		Scientific and Cultural Collections		Arts and Screen Industry Support		Total	
		2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
3. Operating Statement by Output Group – Department Only									
INCOME									
Taxation Revenue									
Grants and Subsidies Revenue									
Current		51	50	789	989	423	397	12 134	10 582
Capital									
Output Revenue		2 145	2 372	8 980	11 002	12 767	13 126	97 320	103 828
Sales of Goods and Services		6	6	761	708	642	666	4 348	3 888
Interest Revenue		0	0	0	0	0	0	743	512
Goods and Services Received Free of Charge	4	85	70	958	894	488	513	6 203	5 859
Gain on Disposal of Assets	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	6	9
Other Income		0	17	10	22	13	11	278	289
TOTAL INCOME		2 288	2 515	11 503	13 615	14 333	14 713	121 032	124 967
EXPENSES									
Employee Expenses		690	632	6 782	7 079	3 218	3 455	49 689	47 044
Administrative Expenses									
Purchases of Goods and Services	6	408	394	4 074	4 597	2 087	1 926	34 568	32 365
Repairs and Maintenance		736	742	1 181	767	717	984	6 672	6 197
Depreciation and Amortisation	10	5	1	852	878	636	680	4 885	4 735
Other Administrative Expenses ⁽¹⁾		86	70	960	1 685	487	839	6 212	6 984
Grants and Subsidies Expenses									
Current		310	296	212	214	5 580	4 969	14 109	20 827
Capital		0	0	0	0	262	3 500	264	3 500
Community Service Obligations		0	0	0	0	0	0	7 833	7 817
Interest Expenses	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	744	512
TOTAL EXPENSES		2 235	2 135	14 061	15 220	12 987	16 353	124 976	129 981
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	15	53	380	(2 558)	(1 605)	1 346	(1 640)	(3 944)	(5 014)

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

(1) Includes DCIS service charges.

	Department 2007 \$'000	Department 2006 \$'000	Group 2007 \$'000	Group 2006 \$'000
4. Goods and Services Received Free of Charge				
Corporate and Information Services	6 203	5 859	6 203	5 859
5. Gain on Disposal of Assets				
Net proceeds from the disposal of minor assets	0	6	0	6
Net proceeds from the disposal of capitalised assets	6	3	6	3
Less: Carrying value of non-current assets disposed	0	0	0	0
Gain on the disposal of non-current assets	6	9	6	9
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⁾	2 184	1 365	2 184	1 365
Advertising ⁽²⁾	214	265	214	265
Marketing and Promotion ⁽³⁾	558	584	558	584
Document Production	251	304	251	304
Legal Expenses ⁽⁴⁾	149	190	149	190
Recruitment ⁽⁵⁾	1 006	941	1 006	941
Training and Study	747	541	747	541
Official Duty Fares	1 378	1 253	1 378	1 253
Travelling Allowance	927	781	927	781

(1) Includes marketing, promotion and IT consultants.

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

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

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

(5) Includes recruitment related advertising costs.

	Department 2007 \$'000	Department 2006 \$'000	Group 2007 \$'000	Group 2006 \$'000
7. Cash and Deposits				
Cash on Hand	16	13	16	13
Cash at Bank	25 289	24 060	26 383	24 060
	<u>25 305</u>	<u>24 073</u>	<u>26 399</u>	<u>24 073</u>
8. Receivables				
Current				
Accounts Receivable	1 412	515	790	515
Less: Allowance for Doubtful Accounts Receivable	(46)	(46)	(46)	(46)
	<u>1 366</u>	<u>469</u>	<u>744</u>	<u>469</u>
Interest Receivables	74	56	74	56
GST Receivables	939	1 068	896	1 068
Total Receivables	<u>2 379</u>	<u>1 593</u>	<u>1 714</u>	<u>1 593</u>
9. Inventories				
General Inventories				
At cost	347	55	347	55
Total Inventories	<u>347</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>347</u>	<u>55</u>

During the year the Department was required to write-off \$1,643 (\$1,678 in 2005-06) of inventory due to damaged and stolen stock.

	Department 2007 \$'000	Department 2006 \$'000	Group 2007 \$'000	Group 2006 \$'000
10. Property, Plant and Equipment				
Land				
At Fair Value	11 396	9 926	11 396	9 926
Buildings				
At Fair Value	142 865	141 575	142 865	141 575
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(49 308)	(45 946)	(49 308)	(45 946)
	93 557	95 629	93 557	95 629
Infrastructure				
At Fair Value	26 609	26 283	26 609	26 283
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(11 991)	(11 293)	(11 991)	(11 293)
	14 618	14 990	14 618	14 990
Construction (Work in Progress)				
At Capitalised Cost	59	44	59	44
	59	44	59	44
Plant and Equipment				
At Cost	5 948	4 462	5 948	4 462
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(3 132)	(2 514)	(3 132)	(2 514)
	2 816	1 948	2 816	1 948
Leased Plant and Equipment				
At Capitalised Cost	30	30	30	30
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(30)	(28)	(30)	(28)
	0	2	0	2
Heritage and Cultural Assets				
At Fair Value	35	22	35	22
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(7)	(7)	(7)	(7)
	28	15	28	15
Computer Assets – Hardwares				
At Fair Value	602	624	602	624
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(556)	(511)	(556)	(511)
	46	113	46	113
Transport Equipment Assets				
At Fair Value	2 754	2 674	2 754	2 674
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(1 459)	(1 316)	(1 459)	(1 316)
	1 295	1 358	1 295	1 358
Intangibles – Computer Software				
At Fair Value	62	35	62	35
Less: Accumulated Amortisation	(31)	(17)	(31)	(17)
	31	18	31	18
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	123 846	124 043	123 846	124 043

Property, Plant and Equipment Valuations An independent valuation of land and buildings of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory at Bullocky Point and Alice Springs Cultural Precinct was undertaken by the Australian Valuation Office (AVO) 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 2007. No impairment adjustments were required as a result of this review.

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

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2006-07 and 2005-06 is set out below:

2007	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure	Construction (Work in Progress)	Plant & Equipment	Leased Plant & Equipment	Transport Equipment	Heritage & Cultural	Computer Equipment	Intangibles	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Carrying Amount as at 1 July 2006	9 926	95 629	14 990	44	1 948	2	1 358	15	113	18	124 043
Additions	0	0	106	15	586	0	80	13	0	27	827
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation and Amortisation	0	(3 362)	(697)	0	(600)	(2)	(143)	0	(67)	(14)	(4 885)
Additions/(Disposals) from Asset Transfers	1 470	1 290	220	0	882	0	0	0	0	0	3 862
Revaluation Increments/(Decrements)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1)
Carrying Amount as at 30 June 2007	11 396	93 557	14 618	59	2 816	0	1 295	28	46	31	123 846
2006	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure	Construction (Work in Progress)	Plant & Equipment	Leased Plant & Equipment	Transport Equipment	Heritage & Cultural	Computer Equipment	Intangibles	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Additions from Administrative Restructure	9 271	98 793	13 782	0	1 466	6	1 295	16	156	13	124 798
Additions	0	0	0	44	311	0	194	0	32	13	594
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	(16)	0	0	0	(16)
Depreciation and Amortisation	0	(3 454)	(687)	0	(339)	(4)	(131)	(1)	(75)	(8)	(4 699)
Additions/(Disposals) from Asset Transfers	120	1 300	1 909	0	606	0	16	0	0	0	3 951
Revaluation Increments/(Decrements)	535	(1 010)	(14)	0	(96)	0	0	0	0	0	(585)
	9 926	95 629	14 990	44	1 948	2	1 358	15	113	18	124 043

	Department 2007 \$'000	Department 2006 \$'000	Group 2007 \$'000	Group 2006 \$'000
11. Payables				
Accounts Payable	3 394	1 704	3 394	1 704
Accrued Expenses	2 697	1 555	2 697	1 555
	<u>6 091</u>	<u>3 259</u>	<u>6 091</u>	<u>3 259</u>
12. Borrowings and Advances				
Current				
Finance Lease Liabilities (refer note 18)	0	2	0	2
Total Borrowing's and Advances	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
13. Provisions				
Current				
Employee Benefits				
Recreation Leave	4 001	3 651	4 001	3 651
Leave Loading	775	759	775	759
Other Employee Benefits (Recreation Leave Fares)	210	150	210	150
Other Current Provisions				
Other Provisions (Fringe Benefits, Payroll Tax and Superannuation)	649	346	649	346
	<u>5 635</u>	<u>4 906</u>	<u>5 635</u>	<u>4 906</u>
Non-Current				
Employee Benefits				
Recreation Leave	2 491	2 324	2 491	2 324
Total Provisions	<u>8 126</u>	<u>7 230</u>	<u>8 126</u>	<u>7 230</u>
Reconciliations of Provisions				
Balance as at 1 July 2006	7 230		7 230	
Provisions Transferred on Administrative Restructure	0	6 902	0	6 902
Additional Provisions Recognised	6 218	390	6 218	390
Reductions Arising from Payments	(5 322)	(62)	(5 322)	(62)
Balance as at 30 June 2007	<u>8 126</u>	<u>7 230</u>	<u>8 126</u>	<u>7 230</u>
The Department has 693 full time equivalent employees as at 30 June 2007 (653 full time equivalent employees as at 30 June 2006).				
14. Other Liabilities				
Current				
Deposits held for National Heritage Trust	13 559	15 383	13 559	15 383
Other Liabilities – Accountable Officers Trust Account and Clearing	360	403	360	403
Unearned Revenue	2	6	2	6
	<u>13 921</u>	<u>15 792</u>	<u>13 921</u>	<u>15 792</u>

15. Equity

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

Capital**Balance as at 1 July**

Equity Injections

Capital Appropriation

Equity Transfers In

Net Effect Of Administrative Restructure

Balance as at 30 June

	Department 2007 \$'000	Department 2006 \$'000	Group 2007 \$'000	Group 2006 \$'000
Balance as at 1 July	130 412	0	130 412	0
Equity Injections				
Capital Appropriation	520	520	520	520
Equity Transfers In	4 091	4 084	4 091	4 084
Net Effect Of Administrative Restructure	0	125 808	0	125 808
Balance as at 30 June	135 023	130 412	135 023	130 412

Reserves**Asset Revaluation Reserve – Land**

The asset revaluation reserve includes the net revaluation increments and decrements arising from the revaluation of non-current assets. Impairment adjustments may also be recognised in the Asset Revaluation Reserve.

Balance as at 1 July

Increment/(Decrement) - Land

Balance as at 30 June

Balance as at 1 July	535	0	535	0
Increment/(Decrement) - Land	0	535	0	535
Balance as at 30 June	535	535	535	535

Accumulated Funds**Balance as at 1 July**Surplus/(Deficit) for the Period ^(b)Correction of Prior Period Errors ^(a)

Net Adjustment on Transition to AIFRS

Balance as at 30 June

Balance as at 1 July	(7 453)	0	(7 453)	0
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Period ^(b)	(3 944)	(6 060)	(3 515)	(6 060)
Correction of Prior Period Errors ^(a)	0	(1 510)	0	(1 510)
Net Adjustment on Transition to AIFRS	0	117	0	117
Balance as at 30 June	(11 397)	(7 453)	(10 968)	(7 453)

(a) The provision of \$0.499 million for employee entitlement balances and \$1.011million for Property, Plant and Equipment (salt intrusion barrages) that were transferred to the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts as part of the Administrative restructure in 2006 were incorrect. These balances have been corrected through equity and recognised as a correction of prior period errors.

(b) Additionally \$1.047million (\$1.082million cost less \$0.035 depreciation) for Property, Plant and Equipment relating to the 2005-06 transfer in of salt intrusion barrages have been restated as operating expenses with an associated adjustment to the 2006 operating deficit

16. Notes to the Cash Flow Statement**Reconciliation of Cash**

The total of Department Cash and Deposits of \$25.305 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

	Department 2007 \$'000	Department 2006 \$'000	Group 2007 \$'000	Group 2006 \$'000
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(3 944)	(6 060)	(3 515)	(6 060)
Non-Cash Items:				
Depreciation and Amortisation	4 885	4 699	4 885	4 699
Asset Write-Offs/Write-Downs	5	1 117	5	1 117
Repairs and Maintenance Non Cash	262	1 247	262	1 247
(Gain)/Loss on Disposal of Assets	(6)		(6)	
Assets acquired at nil value	(17)		(17)	
Changes in Assets and Liabilities:				
Decrease/(Increase) in Receivables	(795)	(1 436)	(130)	(1 436)
Decrease/(Increase) in Inventories	(292)	2	(292)	2
Decrease/(Increase) in Prepayments	(400)	80	(400)	80
Decrease/(Increase) in Other Assets				
(Decrease)/Increase in Payables	2 832	3 140	2 832	3 140
(Decrease)/Increase in Provision for Employee Benefits	895	388	895	388
(Decrease)/Increase in Other Provisions	(2)	(58)	(2)	(58)
(Decrease)/Increase in Other Liabilities	(4)	(614)	(4)	(614)
Net Cash From Operating Activities	3 419	2 505	4 513	2 505

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.

Fixed Interest Maturity	Weighted Average Interest Rate %	Variable Interest \$'000	Under 1 Year \$'000	1 to 5 Years \$'000	Over 5 Years \$'000	Non-Interest Bearing \$'000	Total \$'000
DEPARTMENT							
2007 Financial Assets							
Cash and Deposits		0	0	0	0	11 746	11 746
Receivables		0	0	0	0	2 379	2 379
Natural Heritage Trust Single Holding Account	5.89%	13 559	0	0	0	0	13 559
Total Financial Assets:		13 559	0	0	0	14 125	27 684
Financial Liabilities							
Payables		0	0	0	0	3 394	3 394
Finance Lease Liabilities		0	0	0	0	0	0
Natural Heritage Trust Single Holding Account	5.89%	13 559	0	0	0	0	13 559
Total Financial Liabilities:		13 559	0	0	0	3 394	16 953
		0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Financial Assets/(Liabilities):		0	0	0	0	10 731	10 731

17. Financial Instruments cont.

Fixed Interest Maturity GROUP	Weighted Average Interest Rate %	Variable Interest \$'000	Under 1 Year \$'000	1 to 5 Years \$'000	Over 5 Years \$'000	Non- Interest Bearing \$'000	Total \$'000
2007 Financial Assets							
Cash and Deposits		0	0	0	0	12 840	12 840
Receivables		0	0	0	0	1 714	1 714
Natural Heritage Trust Single Holding Account	5.89%	13 559	0	0	0	0	13 559
Total Financial Assets:		13 559	0	0	0	14 554	28 113
Financial Liabilities							
Payables		0	0	0	0	3 394	3 394
Finance Lease Liabilities		0	0	0	0	0	0
Natural Heritage Trust Single Holding Account	5.89%	13 559	0	0	0	0	13 559
Total Financial Liabilities:		13 559	0	0	0	3 394	16 953
Net Financial Assets/(Liabilities):		0	0	0	0	11 160	11 160
Fixed Interest Maturity DEPARTMENT AND GROUP							
2006 Financial Assets							
Cash and Deposits		0	0	0	0	8 690	8 690
Receivables		0	0	0	0	1 593	1 593
Natural Heritage Trust Single Holding Account	5.29%	15 383	0	0	0	0	15 383
Total Financial Assets:		15 383	0	0	0	10 283	25 666
Financial Liabilities							
Payables		0	0	0	0	1 705	1 705
Finance Lease Liabilities		0	0	0	0	2	2
Natural Heritage Trust Single Holding Account	5.29%	15 383	0	0	0	0	15 383
Total Financial Liabilities:		15 383	0	0	0	1 707	17 090
Net Financial Assets/(Liabilities):		0	0	0	0	8 576	8 576

	Department 2007 \$'000	Department 2006 \$'000	Group 2007 \$'000	Group 2006 \$'000
18. Commitments				
(i) Other Expenditure Commitments				
Other non-cancellable expenditure commitments not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:				
Within one year	259	460	259	460
(ii) Operating Lease Commitments				
The Department leases property under non-cancellable operating leases expiring from one to five 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	56	50	56	50
Later than one year and not later than five years	78	114	78	114
	<u>134</u>	<u>164</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>164</u>
(iii) Finance Lease Commitments				
The Department leases plant and equipment under finance leases have expired in 2006-07. 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	0	2	0	2
Total Finance Lease liabilities	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
Current (note 12)	0	2	0	2
Total Finance Lease Liabilities	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>

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 effect the outcome of any current or future litigation.

b) Contingent assets

The Department had no contingent assets as at 30 June 2007.

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 1 July 2006	Receipts	Payments	Closing Balance 30 June 2007
Museums	2	2	3	1
Alice Springs Cultural Precinct	59	616	635	40
Bond money	14	36	38	12
Security deposits	78	13	13	78
Other Money	18	44	24	38
	171	711	713	169

22. Write-offs, Postponements and Waivers

	Department / Group		Department /Group		Territory Items		Territory Items	
	2007 \$'000	No. of Trans.	2006 \$'000	No. of Trans.	2007 \$'000	No. of Trans.	2006 \$'000	No. of Trans.
Write-offs, Postponements and Waivers Under the Financial Management Act								
Represented by:								
Amounts written off, postponed and waived by Delegates								
Irrecoverable amounts payable to the Territory or a Department written off	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Losses or deficiencies of money written off	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public property written off	4	521	0	27	0	0	0	0
Waiver or postponement of right to receive or recover money or property	5	8	1	2	0	0	0	0
Total written off, waived and postponed by Delegates	9	529	1	29	0	0	0	0
Amounts written off, postponed and waived by the Treasurer								
Irrecoverable amounts payable to the Territory or a Department written off	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0
Losses or deficiencies of money written off	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public property written off	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waiver or postponement of right to receive or recover money or property	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total written off, postponed and waived by the Treasurer	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0

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**

	Department 2007 \$'000	Department 2006 \$'000	Group 2007 \$'000	Group 2006 \$'000
Fees from Regulatory Services	34	31	34	31
Interest Revenue				
Royalties and Rents	3 544	3 519	3 544	3 519
Total Income	<u>3 578</u>	<u>3 550</u>	<u>3 578</u>	<u>3 550</u>

Expenses

Central Holding Authority Income Transferred	3 578	3 550	3 578	3 550
Total Expenses	<u>3 578</u>	<u>3 550</u>	<u>3 578</u>	<u>3 550</u>

Territory Income less Expenses

	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
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TERRITORY ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**Assets**

Royalties and Rent Receivable	58	0	58	0
Total Assets	<u>58</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>0</u>

Liabilities

Central Holding Authority Income Payable	58	0	58	0
Total Liabilities	<u>58</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>0</u>

Net Assets

	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
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24. 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 deficit was the same as that recorded in the TAFR the amounts recorded against income and expenses will show a variance of -\$3.373 million. This reflects the elimination of intra Departmental income and expense transactions associated with the delivery of natural resource management activities.

	Group Financial Statements	Treasurer's Annual Financial Statement	Variance
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Operating Statement:			
INCOME			
Grants and Subsidies Revenue			
Current	17 825	20 633	2 808
Sales of Goods and Services	3 802	4 367	565
	21 627	25 000	3 373
EXPENSES			
Employee Expenses	49 689	50 046	357
Administrative Expenses			
Purchases of Goods and Services	34 568	34 776	208
Grants and Subsidies Expenses			
Current	18 826	21 634	2 808
	103 083	106 456	3 373
NET DEFICIT	(3 515)	(3 515)	0
Balance Sheet:			
ASSETS			
Receivables	1 714	2 335	621
LIABILITIES			
Payables	6 091	6 712	621

Territory Wildlife Parks Financial Statement Overview

For the Year Ended 30 June 2007

This section of the report provides an overview of the financial activities of the Territory Wildlife Parks for the year ended 30 June 2007.

Territory Wildlife Parks is a Government Business Division (GBD) responsible for managing the Territory Wildlife Park at Berry Springs and the Alice Springs Desert Park. As a GBD the Territory Wildlife Parks are required to pay the full cost of resources used (including tax equivalents), set efficient prices based on costs, and operate under appropriate commercial accounting and management structures.

Both Parks showcase the Northern Territory's unique fauna and flora in a natural environment that is inviting and interesting for visitors. The Parks contribute to Northern Territory tourism by providing quality tourism destinations. They support the preservation of biodiversity through breeding rare and threatened plants and animals and enhance the education of visitors, especially children, to improve environmental responsibility through the provision of high quality interpreted displays of the natural environment of the Northern Territory.

Operating Statement

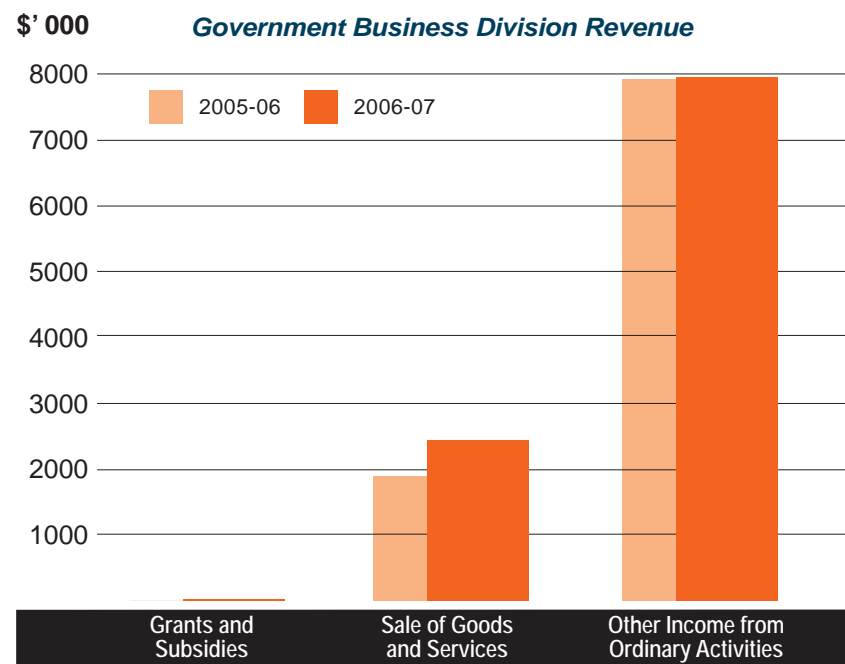
The Operating Statement provides information on the financial performance of the Government Business Division (GBD) during the year.

In 2006-07, the GBD made a loss of \$1.7 million compared to a loss of \$2.1 million for the same period last year. This was reflected in a loss in the Territory Wildlife Park of \$1.3 million, and a loss in the Alice Springs Desert Park of \$0.4 million.

Operating Statement Summary	TWP 2006-07 \$'000	ASDP 2006-07 \$'000	Total 2006-07 \$'000
Revenue	5 009	5 409	10 418
Expenses	6 324	5 794	12 118
Net Loss	(1 315)	(385)	(1 700)

Revenue – Where the Dollars Came From

The GBD received revenue of \$10.4 million in 2006-07, an increase of \$0.6 million over the previous year, and is the primary reason for the improvement in the net result for the GBD. The following graph illustrates the sources of revenue for the GBD.



Sales of goods and services revenue of \$2.4 million includes admission fees to the GBD, sales through the café and gift shop at the Territory Wildlife Park, and rental income from the business trading within the Alice Springs Desert Park.

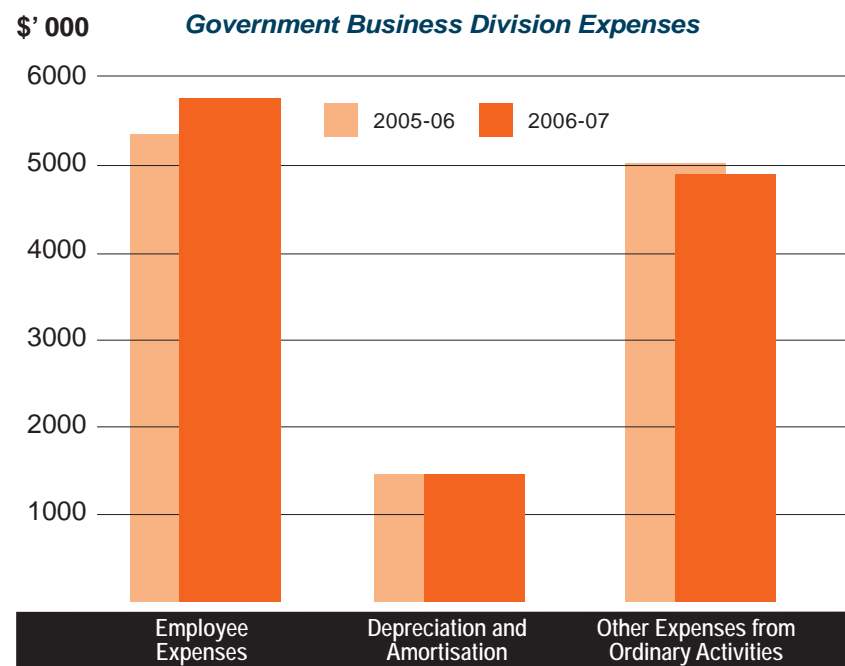
Increased sales of goods and services income in 2006-07 compared to 2005-06 was due to an increase in visitor numbers (161 660 in 2006-07 and 156 323 in 2005-06) paying higher entry fees from April 2006. The Territory Wildlife Park also took over the running of the Park's café and gift shop from December 2006 after trying unsuccessfully to secure a new concessionaire for the outlet.

In 2006-07 the GBD received a Community Service Obligation (CSO) payment of \$7.8 million from the Northern Territory Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts. A CSO arises when the Northern Territory Government requires a Government Business Division such as the Territory Wildlife Parks, to carry out activities it would not elect to do on a commercial basis or would only do at higher commercial prices. CSO's allow the Northern Territory Government to achieve identifiable community or social objectives which would not be achieved if outcomes were purely commercially delivered.

The non-commercial functions carried out by the GBD are tourism industry support, biodiversity conservation and education.

Expenses – Where the Dollars Were Spent

Operating the GBD in 2006-07 gave rise to expenses of \$12.1 million, an increase of \$0.3 million over the previous year. The graph shows that major expenses for the year were payments to employees and expenditure associated with ordinary activities.



Employee expenses increased by \$400 000 or 7 percent compared to the previous year. This is attributed to an increase in staff required to run the café and gift shop at the Territory Wildlife Park and a pay increase for all employees as negotiated under the 2004 Northern Territory Public Sector Workplace Agreement.

Other expenses from ordinary activities comprise repairs and maintenance, property management, and the purchase of goods and services. A strong emphasis on financial management throughout the year has seen other expenses decrease slightly since 2005-06.

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet provides information on the GBD's financial position at the end of the financial year by disclosing total assets, liabilities and equity.

Assets – What We Own

The GBD has total assets worth \$38.6 million as at 30 June 2007 and includes an increase of \$5.9 million over the previous year.

The increase in assets is due primarily to a revaluation of building and infrastructure assets during the year which increased the value of these assets by \$7.3 million. This was offset by \$1.4 million in depreciation of property, plant and equipment.

Liabilities – What We Owe

The GBD's total liabilities were \$1.2 million as at 30 June 2007. There was no material movement in the GBD's liabilities from 2005-06.

Liabilities include provisions for employee entitlements such as recreation leave, recreation leave fares, fringe benefits and payroll tax.

Our Equity – What We are Worth

Equity is the GBD's net worth, that is, 'what we own' (total assets of \$38.6 million), less 'what we owe' (total liabilities of \$1.2 million). Equity as at 30 June 2007 was \$37.4 million, an increase of \$6 million over the previous year.

Statement of Cash Flow

The Statement of Cash Flow extends the information outlined in the Operating Statement and the Balance Sheet by summarising the nature and amount of cash flowing into and out of the GBD during the year.

Cash Flow Statement Summary	2006-07 \$'000	2005-06 \$'000
Net Cash from Operating Activities	(320)	(215)
Net Cash Used in Investing Activities	(169)	(41)
Net Cash from Financing Activities	24	0
Net Increase in Cash Held	(465)	(256)
Cash at Beginning of Reporting Period	1 246	1 502
Cash at End of Reporting Period	781	1 246

In 2006-07 an increase in cash from gate admissions and takings from the café and gift shop at the Territory Wildlife Park was offset against increased payments made to employees and the settlement of accounts payable from the prior year.

The purchase of inventory for the café and gift shop and prepayment of a whip-ray exhibit contributed to the increase in purchase of asset payments (investing activities).

In 2006-07 deposits of \$24 000 for tax deductible donations were received and reported as cash from financing activities in the cash flow statement.

Certification of the Financial Statements

We certify that the attached financial statements for the Government Business Division, 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 2007 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 October 2007



.....
Susan Kirkman
Chief Financial Officer
30 October 2007



AUDITOR-GENERAL

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MINISTER FOR PARKS AND WILDLIFE
TERRITORY WILDLIFE PARKS
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007**

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Territory Wildlife Parks, which comprises the operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement and accompanying notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2007.

The Responsibility of the Chief Executive for the Financial Report

The Chief Executive of the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations). This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Chief Executive of the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Territory Wildlife Parks as of 30 June 2007, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations).

E. McGuinness

Auditor-General for the Northern Territory
Darwin, Northern Territory

7 November 2007

Operating Statement for the year ended 30 June 2007

	Note	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
INCOME			
Grants and Subsidies Revenue			
Current		28	0
Sales of Goods and Services		2 445	1 844
Other Income From Ordinary Activities		7 945	7 921
TOTAL INCOME	3	<u>10 418</u>	<u>9 765</u>
EXPENSES			
Employee Expenses		5 761	5 359
Depreciation and Amortisation	8	1 461	1 465
Other Expenses From Ordinary Activities	4	4 896	5 021
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>12 118</u>	<u>11 845</u>
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	11	<u>(1 700)</u>	<u>(2 080)</u>

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

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2007

	Note	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and Deposits	5	781	1 246
Receivables	6	167	344
Inventories	7	43	4
Prepayments		117	0
Total Current Assets		<u>1 108</u>	<u>1 594</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	8	<u>37 516</u>	<u>31 136</u>
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>37 516</u>	<u>31 136</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u><u>38 624</u></u>	<u><u>32 730</u></u>
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Deposits Held		24	0
Payables	9	399	492
Provisions	10	<u>559</u>	<u>586</u>
Total Current Liabilities		<u>982</u>	<u>1 078</u>
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	10	<u>183</u>	<u>166</u>
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>183</u>	<u>166</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u><u>1 165</u></u>	<u><u>1 244</u></u>
NET ASSETS		<u><u>37 459</u></u>	<u><u>31 486</u></u>
EQUITY			
Capital		14 922	14 511
Reserves		24 365	17 103
Accumulated Funds		(1 828)	(128)
TOTAL EQUITY	11	<u><u>37 459</u></u>	<u><u>31 486</u></u>

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

Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2007

	Note	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
BALANCE OF EQUITY AT 1 JULY		<u>31 486</u>	<u>33 324</u>
Capital	11		
Balance at 1 July		14 511	14 269
Equity Injections		<u>411</u>	<u>242</u>
Balance at 30 June		14 922	14 511
Reserves	11		
Balance at 1 July		17 103	17 103
Increase in Asset Revaluation Reserve		<u>7 262</u>	<u>0</u>
Balance at 30 June		24 365	17 103
Accumulated Funds	11		
Balance at 1 July		(128)	1 952
(Deficit) for the Period		<u>(1 700)</u>	<u>(2 080)</u>
Balance at 30 June		(1 828)	(128)
BALANCE OF EQUITY AT 30 JUNE		<u>37 459</u>	<u>31 486</u>

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

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 30 June 2007

	NOTE	2007 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows	2006 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Operating Receipts			
Grants and Subsidies Received			
Community Service Obligation		7 834	7 817
Current		28	0
Receipts From Sales of Goods And Services		3136	2 458
Interest Received		74	70
Total Operating Receipts		<u>11 072</u>	<u>10 345</u>
Operating Payments			
Payments to Employees		(5 777)	(5 264)
Payments for Goods and Services		(5 615)	(5 296)
Total Operating Payments		<u>(11 392)</u>	<u>(10 560)</u>
Net Cash (Used In) Operating Activities	12	<u>(320)</u>	<u>(215)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Investing Payments			
Purchases of Assets	8	(169)	(41)
Total Investing Payments		<u>(169)</u>	<u>(41)</u>
Net Cash (Used In) Investing Activities		<u>(169)</u>	<u>(41)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Financing Receipts			
Deposits Received		24	0
Total Financing Receipts		<u>24</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Cash From Financing Activities		<u>24</u>	<u>0</u>
Net (Decrease) in Cash Held		(465)	(256)
Cash at Beginning of Financial Year		1 246	1 502
CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	5	<u>781</u>	<u>1 246</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

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3. Income

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4. Purchases of Goods and Services

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5. Cash and Deposits
6. Receivables
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Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Objectives and Funding

Territory Wildlife Parks is a Government Business Division (GBD) responsible for managing the Territory Wildlife Park at Berry Springs and the Alice Springs Desert Park. Also refer to note 15. A key responsibility of the GBD 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.

The GBDs established under the *Financial Management Act (1995)* are subject to the direction of the Minister for Parks and Wildlife. The GBD 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 the GBD to prepare financial statements for the year ended 30 June based on the form determined by the Treasurer. The form of GBD 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 Northern 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 GBD transactions and balances have been eliminated.

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

(b) Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information for the 2005-06 financial year has been reclassified to provide consistency with current year disclosures.

(c) Presentation and Rounding of Amounts

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

(d) Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes to accounting policies adopted in 2006-07 as a result of management decisions.

(e) Goods and Services Tax

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

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

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

(f) Taxation

The entity is required to pay income tax on its accounting profit, excluding extraordinary items, at the company rate of 30 per cent in accordance with the requirements of the Treasurer's Directions and the Northern Territory Tax Equivalent Regime. The entity does not have a present income tax liability as it has incurred a loss for income tax purposes and has not taken to account any future income tax benefits arising from this loss as the potential future income tax benefit is not certain.

The future income tax benefits will only be realised if:

- (i) the entity derives future assessable income of a nature and amount sufficient to enable the benefit to be realised;
- (ii) the entity continues to comply with the conditions for deductibility imposed by the Treasurer's Directions; and

- (iii) there are no changes to the Northern Territory Tax Equivalent Regime that adversely affects the entity.

The tax loss to be carried forward is \$8.134 million (\$6.434 million in 2006).

(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.

Grants and Other Contributions

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

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

Sale of Goods

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

Rendering of Services

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

Interest Revenue

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

Community Service Obligation Funding

Community Service Obligation funding is received from the Northern Territory Government when an entity is required to carry out activities on a non-commercial basis. Revenue in respect of this funding is recognised in the period in which the entity gains control of the funds.

Disposal of Assets

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

Contributions of Assets

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

(h) Repairs and Maintenance Expenses

Costs associated with repairs and maintenance works on the entity's assets are expensed as incurred.

(i) Interest Expenses

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

(j) Cash and Deposits

For the purposes of the Balance Sheet and the Cash Flow Statement, cash includes cash on hand, cash at bank and cash equivalents. Cash equivalents are highly liquid short-term investments that are readily convertible to cash.

(k) Inventories

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

Inventories held for distribution are those inventories distributed at no or nominal consideration, and are carried at the lower of cost and current replacement cost.

(l) Receivables

Receivables include accounts receivable and other receivables and are recognised at fair value less any allowance for 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 \$5000 are recognised in the year of acquisition and depreciated as outlined below. Items of property, plant and equipment below the \$5000 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 GBD in future years. Where these costs represent separate components of a complex asset, they are accounted for as separate assets and are separately depreciated over their expected useful lives.

Construction (Work in Progress)

As part of *Financial Management Framework*, the Northern Territory Department of Planning and Infrastructure is responsible for managing general government capital works projects on a whole of Government basis. Therefore appropriation for most of the GBD's 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 entity.

Revaluations

The entity obtains an independent valuation of its property every three years with the recent revaluation completed by 30 June 2007. The following classes of non-current assets are revalued with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount of these assets does not differ materially from their fair value at reporting date:

- Buildings
- Infrastructure Assets

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

Depreciation and Amortisation

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

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

Asset	2007	2006
Buildings	20-50 Years	20-50 Years
Infrastructure Assets	10 Years	10 Years
Plant and Equipment	5 Years	5 Years
Computer Hardware	3-6 Years	3-6 Years
Transport Equipment	5 Years	5 Years

Assets are depreciated from the date of acquisition or from the time an asset is completed and held ready for use. Assets may be constructed internally or acquired assets may have modifications and accessories installed or equipment calibrated and tested, that will affect the date held ready for use.

Impairment of Assets

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

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

Impairment losses are recognised in the 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 11 provides additional information in relation to Asset Revaluation Reserve.

(n) Leased Assets

Leases under which the GBD 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 GBD. 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 Northern Territory Government long term bond rate.

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

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

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

As part of the *Financial Management Framework*, the Central Holding Authority assumes the long service leave liabilities of Government Agencies including the GBD, and as such no long service leave liability is recognised in the entity's financial statements.

(q) Superannuation

Employees' superannuation entitlements are provided through the:

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

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

(r) Dividends

The entity has not provided for a dividend.

(s) Commitments

Disclosures in relation to capital and other commitments, including lease commitments are shown at note 14 and are consistent with the requirements contained 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.

	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
3. Income		
Sale of Goods and Services From Ordinary Activities	2 445	1 844
Current Grant Revenue	28	0
	<u>2 473</u>	<u>1 844</u>
Other income:		
Community Service Obligations – Note 15	7 834	7 817
NT Treasury Interest	73	70
Assets Acquired Below Fair Value	0	6
Miscellaneous Revenue	38	28
	<u>7 945</u>	<u>7 921</u>
Total Income	<u>10 418</u>	<u>9 765</u>

	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
4. Purchases of Goods and Services		
The net surplus/(deficit) has been arrived at after charging the following expenses:		
Goods and Services Expenses:		
Consultants ⁽¹⁾	32	1
Marketing and Promotion ⁽²⁾	231	273
Document Production	11	7
Legal Expenses ⁽³⁾	0	1
Recruitment ⁽⁴⁾	25	34
Training and Study	31	62
Official Duty Fares	70	50
Travelling Allowance	25	27
Audit and Other Services	18	24
Corporate Support by External Agencies	675	705
Net bad and doubtful debts expense including movements in provision for doubtful debts	0	(2)
Operating Lease Rental Expense	5	6
Repairs and Maintenance	632	624
Property Management	767	780
Motor Vehicles	499	440
Information Technology Expenses	283	197

(1) Includes marketing, promotion and IT consultants.

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

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

(4) Includes recruitment related advertising costs.

5. Cash and Deposits

Cash on Hand	37	15
Cash at Bank	744	1 231
	<u>781</u>	<u>1 246</u>

	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
6. Receivables		
Current		
Accounts Receivable	53	96
Less: Allowance for Doubtful Accounts Receivable	<u>(5)</u>	<u>(11)</u>
	48	85
Interest Receivables	5	6
GST Receivables	75	205
Other Receivables	<u>39</u>	<u>48</u>
Total Receivables	<u>167</u>	<u>344</u>
7. Inventories		
General Inventories		
At cost	<u>43</u>	<u>4</u>
Total Inventories	<u>43</u>	<u>4</u>

	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
8. Property, Plant and Equipment		
Buildings		
At Fair Value	40 596	31 998
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(18 232)</u>	<u>(13 262)</u>
	<u>22 364</u>	<u>18 736</u>
Infrastructure		
At Fair Value	27 719	21 451
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(12 740)</u>	<u>(9 186)</u>
	<u>14 979</u>	<u>12 265</u>
Construction (Work in Progress)		
At Capitalised Cost	<u>25</u>	<u>0</u>
	25	0
Plant and Equipment		
At Cost	1 405	1 401
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(1 292)</u>	<u>(1 271)</u>
	<u>113</u>	<u>130</u>
Computer Hardware		
At Cost	50	17
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(19)</u>	<u>(17)</u>
	31	0
Transport Equipment		
At Cost	6	6
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(2)</u>	<u>(1)</u>
	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	<u><u>37 516</u></u>	<u><u>31 136</u></u>

Property, Plant and Equipment Valuations

An independent valuation of buildings and infrastructure assets was undertaken by the Australian Valuation Office (AVO) as at 30 June 2007. The fair value of these assets was determined based on any existing restrictions on asset use. Where reliable market values were not available, the fair value of entity assets was based on their depreciated replacement cost.

Impairment of Property, Plant and Equipment

The Territory Wildlife Parks property, plant and equipment asset were assessed for impairment as at 30 June 2007. No impairment adjustments were required as a result of this review.

8. Property, Plant and Equipment cont.**Property, Plant and Equipment Reconciliations**

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current and previous financial year are set out below:

Buildings

	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
Carrying Amount at Beginning of Year	18 736	19 262
Additions	94	16
Depreciation	(746)	(738)
Additions From Asset Transfers	287	196
Revaluation Increments	3 993	0
Carrying Amount at End of Year	<u>22 364</u>	<u>18 736</u>

Infrastructure

Carrying Amount at Beginning of Year	12 265	12 919
Depreciation	(689)	(685)
Additions From Asset Transfers	123	31
Revaluation Increments	3 280	0
Carrying Amount at End of Year	<u>14 979</u>	<u>12 265</u>

Construction (Work in Progress)

Carrying Amount at Beginning of Year	0	0
Additions	25	0
Carrying Amount at End of Year	<u>25</u>	<u>0</u>

Plant and Equipment

Carrying Amount at Beginning of Year	130	132
Additions	17	26
Depreciation	(23)	(41)
Additions From Asset Transfers	0	13
Revaluation (Decrements)	(11)	0
Carrying Amount at End of Year	<u>113</u>	<u>130</u>

	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
8. Property, Plant and Equipment cont.		
Computer Hardware		
Carrying Amount at Beginning of Year	0	0
Additions	33	0
Depreciation	(2)	0
Carrying Amount at End of Year	<u>31</u>	<u>0</u>
Transport Equipment		
Carrying Amount at Beginning of Year	5	0
Depreciation	(1)	(1)
Additions From Asset Transfers	0	6
Carrying Amount at End of Year	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	<u>37 516</u>	<u>31 136</u>
9. Payables		
Accounts Payable	284	345
Accrued Expenses	115	147
	<u>399</u>	<u>492</u>
10. Provisions		
Current		
Employee Benefits		
Recreation Leave	390	358
Leave Loading	106	100
Recreation Leave Fares	1	0
Other Current Provisions		
Other Provisions (Fringe Benefits, Payroll Tax and Superannuation)	62	128
	<u>559</u>	<u>586</u>
Non-Current		
Employee Benefits		
Recreation Leave	183	166
	<u>183</u>	<u>166</u>
Total Provisions	<u>742</u>	<u>752</u>

	2007 \$'000	2007 \$'000
11. Equity		
CAPITAL		
Balance as at 1 July	14 511	14 269
Equity Injections		
Equity Transfers In	411	242
Balance as at 30 June	14 922	14 511
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
Revaluation increment	7 262	0
Balance as at 30 June	24 365	17 103
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Balance as at 1 July	(128)	1 952
(Deficit) for the Period	(1 700)	(2 080)
Balance as at 30 June	(1 828)	(128)

	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
12. Notes to the Cash Flow Statement		
Reconciliation of Cash		
Reconciliation of Net (Deficit) to Net Cash From Operating Activities		
Net (Deficit)	(1 700)	(2 080)
Non-Cash Items:		
Depreciation and Amortisation	1 461	1 465
Asset Below Fair Value	0	(6)
Repairs and Maintenance acquired at nil cost – SLA	0	1
Changes in Assets and Liabilities:		
Decrease in Receivables	184	110
(Increase) in Prepayments	(117)	0
(Increase) in Inventories	(39)	0
(Decrease)/Increase in Payables	(93)	76
(Decrease) in Provision for Doubtful Debts	(6)	(2)
Increase in Provision for Employee Benefits ⁽¹⁾	56	93
(Decrease)/Increase in Other Provisions ⁽¹⁾	(66)	128
Net Cash From Operating Activities	<u>(320)</u>	<u>(215)</u>

(1) All changes in provisions during 2006 were categorised as employee benefits. The \$221 000 has been restated as employee benefits and other provisions.

13. Financial Instruments

A financial instrument is a contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Financial instruments held by the GBD include cash and deposits, receivables, payables and finance leases. The GBD 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.

13. Financial Instruments (continued)

FIXED INTEREST MATURITY

	Weighted Average interest rate %	Variable Interest \$'000	Non-Interest Bearing \$'000	Total \$'000
2007 Financial Assets				
Cash and Deposits	5.89%	744	37	781
Receivables		0	167	167
Total Financial Assets:		<u>744</u>	<u>204</u>	<u>948</u>
Financial Liabilities				
Deposits Held		0	24	24
Payables		0	399	399
Provisions		0	742	742
Total Financial Liabilities:		<u>0</u>	<u>1 165</u>	<u>1 165</u>
Net Financial Assets/(Liabilities):		<u>744</u>	<u>(961)</u>	<u>(217)</u>
2006 Financial Assets				
Cash and Deposits	5.29%	1 231	15	1 246
Receivables		0	344	344
Total Financial Assets:		<u>1 231</u>	<u>359</u>	<u>1 590</u>
Financial Liabilities				
Deposits Held		0	0	0
Payables		0	492	492
Provisions		0	752	752
Total Financial Liabilities:		<u>0</u>	<u>1 244</u>	<u>1 244</u>
Net Financial Assets/(Liabilities):		<u>1 231</u>	<u>(885)</u>	<u>346</u>

	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
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14. Commitments

Non-cancellable Operating Lease Expense Commitments

Future operating lease commitments not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:

Within one year

9	4
---	---

Later than one year and not later than five years

15	14
----	----

24	18
----	----

15. Community Service Obligations

Community Service Obligation received

7 834	7 817
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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

a) Contingent liabilities

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

b) Contingent assets

The entity had no contingent assets as at 30 June 2007.

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	
	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
Revenue	5 009	4 552	5 409	5 213	10 418	9 765
Profit/(Loss) from Ordinary Activities	(1 315)	(1 146)	(385)	(934)	(1 700)	(2 080)
Net Non-current Assets	19 988	16 209	17 645	14 927	37 633	31 136
Unallocated Assets	0	0	0	0	991	1 594
Unallocated Liabilities	0	0	0	0	(1 165)	(1 244)

Overheads have been reallocated in 2007 to more effectively reflect the current consumption within the business segments.

19. Write Offs, Postponements and Waivers**Write offs, postponements and waivers under the *Financial Management Act***

Represented by:

Irrecoverable amounts payable to the entity written off

Total written off, waived and postponed by Delegates

2007 \$'000	No. of Trans.	2006 \$'000	No. of Trans.
5	73	0	0
5	73	0	0

Appendixes



Statutory Authorities and Bodies as at 30 June 2007

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 2007 were:

Chairman: Mr Phillip Timothy

Members: Mr Neil Bradley
Mr John de Koning
Ms Adrienne Friday
Ms Annie Isacacs
Ms Kathy Jupiter
Ms Stephanie Jupiter
Ms Roxanne Jupiter

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 of these members chair the regional bushfires committees. They act as spokespersons 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 Northern Territory 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 come under the control of 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 2007 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 AM
Mr Donald Roebuck
Mr Otto Campion
Mr Alexander McColm
Mr Thomas Stockwell
Mr Geoff Garden
Mr Ian Bradford
Mr Gary Riggs
Mr David Weir

Bushfires Committees – Regional

The Northern Territory is divided into ten fire control regions that reflect varying land use, population density, climate, soil and vegetation type.

A bushfires committee represents each region and the six members are selected on local knowledge, experience or skills in bushfire management. Together with the Bushfires Council, the committees have a combined membership of 60 principal shareholders or clients. Its main statutory function is the prevention and control of wildfires in its 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 2007 were:

Alice Springs East

Chairman: Mr David (Stewart) Weir

Members: Mr David Bird
Mr Ben Hayes
Mr Edward Hayes
Mr Donald Costello

A/RFCO: Ms Petra Yan

Alice Springs West

Chairman: Mr Ashley Severin

Members: Mr Walter Braitling
Mr Douglas Simms
Mr Roy Chisholm
Mr Thomas Keith

A/RFCO: Mr Rod Cantlay

Arafura

Chairman: Mr Ian Bradford

Members: Mr Douglas McKean
Mr Brian Muir
Mr Warren Clarris

RFCO: Mr Robert Moloney

Arnhem

Chairman: Mr Otto Campion

Members: Mrs Jessie Alderson
Mr George Djanggawangga
Mr Bobby Nunggumajbar
Mr Djawa Yunipingu
Ms Sybil Ranch

RFCO: Mr Michael Carter

Barkly

Chairman: Mr John Mora

Members: Mr Ernest Holt
Mr Stephen Peatling
Mr David Mylrea

A/RFCO: Mr Troy Munckton

Elliot / Wauchope

Chairman: Mr Peter Saint

Members: Mr Ian Rush
Mr Ken Ford
Mr Benjamin Wratten
Mr Geoffrey Murrell

RFCO: Mr Brian Dohnt

Gulf

Chairman: Mr Thomas Stockwell

Members: Mr Keith Holzwart
Mr Felix O'Brien
Mr Edward Webber
Mr Karl Roth

RFCO: Mr Bob White

Katherine

Chairman: Mr Gary Riggs

Members: Ms Sarah Kerin
Mr Allan Thompson
Mr Robert Wright
Mr Preston Lee

RFCO: Mr Adrian Creighton

Vernon

Chairman: Mr Donald Roebuck

Members: Mr David McLachlan
Mr Andrew Firley
Mr Ian Stewart
Mr Eric Shuker

RFCO: Mr John Whatley

Victoria River

Chairman: Mr Alexander McColm

Members: Mr Allan Andrews
Mr Steven Craig
Mr Russell Teece
Mr Mark Neilsen

RFCO: Mr Rob Maloney

Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary and Marine Park Board

The Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary and Marine Park Board is a statutory body under section 8 of the *Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land and Sanctuary Act*. Its purpose is to jointly manage Garig Gunak Barlu National Park.

Members at 30 June 2007 were:

Members: Mr John Christopherson
Mr Kenny Wauchope
Mr Ronnie Ngundiwuy
Mr William Flaherty
Mr David West
Mr Edward Williams
Mr John de Koning

Conservation Land Corporation

The Conservation Land Corporation is a statutory body established under part IV section 30 of the *Parks and Wildlife Commission Act*. Its purpose is to acquire, hold and dispose real and personal property in accordance with the Act.

Members at 30 June 2007 were:

Chairman: Mr Willem Goedegebuure

Members: Mr Mike Burgess
Mr Col Fuller
Dr David Ritchie

Djukbinj National Park Local Management Committee

The Djukbinj National Park Local Management Committee is a statutory body under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* and the Djukbinj National Park Local Management Committee Regulations. Its purpose is to assist the Commission in the management of the Djukbinj National Park.

Members at 30 June 2007 were:

Chairman: Mr David 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 2007 were:

Chairman Mr Brian Kunde

Members: Mr Laurence Ah Toy
Mr Craig Oldfield
Mr Daryl Gibbons
Mr David George
Mr Chris MacHunter
Mr Richard Miller

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 2007 were:

Chairman: Dr Brian Reid

Members: Mr Graeme Addicott
Mr Andrew Allan
Ms Elizabeth Close
Mr David Curtis
Mr Allan Garraway
Ms Sarah Kerin
Ms Anna Malgorzewicz
Ms Naomi Warriner

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 2007 were:

Chairman: Mr Kevin Holzwart

Members: Mr Micheal Crothers
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 role in relation to the maintenance and development of collections, responsible for developing community involvement with MAGNT, and informing and making recommendations to the Minister regarding the capacity of MAGNT to meet its strategic goals.

The MAGNT Board is also responsible for management of the *Meteorites Act* in the Northern Territory.

Members at 30 June 2007 were:

Chairman: Ms Apolline Kohen

Members: Ms Peg Havnen
Mr Steven Eland
Ms Pip McManus
Mr Joe Morrison
Mr John Waters QC

Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park Board

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

Members at 30 June 2007 were:

Chairman: Mr John Ah Kit

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

Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council

The Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council is established under the *Parks and Wildlife Commission Act* 1999. The Council is to comprise “persons who have an interest or expertise and knowledge in matters relating to the environment and the management and conservation of natural resources”. The role of the Council is to “advise the Parks and Wildlife Commission on matters concerning the management of parks and wildlife” (section 41).

Members at 30 June 2007 were:

Chairman: Mr Willem Goedegebuure

Members: Ms Penelope Figgis AO
Mr Robert Fox
Dr David Garnett
Mr Michael Jerram
Mr Matthew Ryan
Ms Jayne Weepers
Mr Djawa Yunupingu
Ms Anne-Marie Delahunt

Pastoral Land Board

The Pastoral Land Board was established under section 11 of the *Pastoral Land Act*. The board’s functions are outlined under section 29 of the *Pastoral Land Act*. These include monitoring of the condition of pastoral land, annual reports to the Minister, determination of applications to clear pastoral land, administration of non-pastoral uses, and recommendations to the Minister on applications to subdivide pastoral leases.

Members at 30 June 2007 were:

Chairman: Mr Tony Young

Members: Mr Steven Craig
Ms Colleen Costello
Mr Thomas Stockwell
Dr Mick Quirk

Rapid Creek Catchment Advisory Committee

The Rapid Creek Catchment Advisory Committee was established under the *Water Act*. Its purpose is to advise the Minister on the management of Rapid Creek Catchment.

Members at 30 June 2007 were:

Chairman: Mr Matthew Bonson MLA

Members: Mr John Bailey
Mr Kelvin Costello
Mr Dal Hartley
Mr Ian Kew
Ms Lesley Alford
Ms Joanne Manson
Ms Robyn Maurer
Ms Nerida Noble
Ms Liza Schenkel
Dr Simon Townsend

Strehlow Research Centre Board

The Strehlow Research Centre Board was established under section 9 of the *Strehlow Research Centre Act*. Its purpose is to :

- care for the collections of Central Australian cultural materials under its custody;
- assist researchers and the Aboriginal community to have culturally appropriate access to these collections;
- present displays and other interpretive material to the public;
- store culturally significant objects on behalf of Central Australian Indigenous people; and
- implement repatriation decisions.

The Strehlow Research Centre Board consists of seven members.

Members at 30 June 2007 were:

Chairman: Mr Ross McDougall

Members: Dr Kathleen Strehlow
Mr Garry Stoll
Mr Glen Auricht
Mr Geoff Bagshaw
Mr Brian Stirling
Mr Adrian Walter

Ti Tree Water Advisory Committee

The Ti Tree Water Advisory Committee was established in 1997 to advise the Controller of Water Resources on allocation and management of groundwater resources in the Ti Tree Water Control District. Local horticulture, pastoral, Aboriginal and community interests are represented on the committee. The committee reports annually to the Minister.

Members at 30 June 2007 were:

Chairman: Vacant

Members: Mr Peter McKeand
Mr Gary Dann
Mr Trevor Sowman
Mr Gavin Kahl
Mr Alan Cooney

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 16 June 2007 were:

Chairman: Mr Herman Malbunka

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

Legislation Administered

Act	Regulations under Act	Amendments to Act and Regulations
<i>Bushfires Act</i>	Bushfires Regulations Bushfires (Volunteer Bushfire Brigades) Regulations	Minor Amendments to the Regulation to allow for better operational management of the Brigades
<i>Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land, Sanctuary And Marine Park Act</i>	Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land And Sanctuary (Entry and Camping) By-Laws Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land, Sanctuary and Marine Park (Rehabilitation Areas) By-Laws	
<i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>	Environmental Assessment Administrative Procedures	
<i>Environmental Offences And Penalties Act 1996</i>		
<i>Heritage Conservation Act</i>	Heritage Conservation Regulations	
<i>Litter Act</i>		
<i>Meteorites Act</i>		
<i>Museums And Art Galleries Act 1999</i>		
<i>National Environment Protection Council (Northern Territory) Act</i>		
<i>National Trust (Northern Territory) Act</i>	Rules Of The National Trust Of Australia (Northern Territory)	
<i>Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park Act</i>		
<i>Nuclear Waste Transport, Storage And Disposal (Prohibition) Act 2004</i>		
<i>Ozone Protection Act</i>	Ozone Protection Regulations	
<i>Parks And Wildlife Commission Act</i>		
<i>Pastoral Land Act (except Part 8 administered by Department of Planning and Infrastructure)</i>		
<i>Soil Conservation And Land Utilization Act</i>		
<i>Strehlow Research Centre Act 2005</i>		

Act	Regulations under Act	Amendments to Act and Regulations
<i>Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act</i>	<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 Parks and Wildlife Conservation Regulations</p>	<p>The Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation (Infringement Notices) Amendment Regulations amends the Parks and Wildlife Conservation Regulations to create an infringement notice regime that can be utilised by Conservation Officers to deal with minor breaches of the Act, and identifies those offences against a provision of the Act that may be dealt with by infringement notice, and the prescribed amount to be paid in lieu of a penalty contained elsewhere in the Act or Regulations.</p>
<i>Waste Management and Pollution Control Act</i>	<p>Tnorala Local Management Committee Regulations</p> <p>Waste Management And Pollution Control (Administration) Regulations</p> <p>Environment Protection (National Pollutant Inventory) Objective</p>	
<i>Water Act</i>	Water Regulations	
<i>Weeds Management Act 2001</i>	Weeds Management Regulations 2006	<p>The regulations introduce an infringement notice system under the <i>Weeds Management Act 2001</i> and provide for a consistent penalty system to be applied to offences pursuant to sections 20, 24(5), 26 and 27 of the Act.</p>
<i>Water Efficiency Labelling Standards Act 2006</i>		<p>Creation of this Act allows to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conserve water supplies by reducing water consumption; • provide information for purchasers of water-use and water-saving products; • promote the adoption of efficient and effective water-use and water-saving technologies.

Capital Works Program

Capital Works – Department

	Program \$'000	Revised Program \$'000	Expended \$'000	Revoted into 2007-08 \$'000
REVOTED WORKS				
Parks and Reserves				
West MacDonnell National Park Development Stage 1: Upgrade and expand visitor facilities, including additional shade shelters, presentation area and ablution block.	1 000	0	803	197
Channel Point: Develop park infrastructure including a boat launching facility, camp ground, road, parking and interpretive display.	620	1 030	683	347
Channel Point: Construct ranger office accommodation and secure storage facility.	400	0	329	71
Total Revoted Works	2 020	1 030	1 815	615

	Program \$'000	Revised Program \$'000	Expended \$'000	Revoted into 2007-08 \$'000
NEW WORKS				
Parks and Reserves				
Nitmiluk National Park: Upgrade visitor access to Katherine Gorge at the first and second gorge cross-overs.	1 000	0	0	1 000
West MacDonnell National Park (Larapinta Trail): Construct shelters, barbeques and toilet facilities on the Larapinta Trail.	0	380	0	380
Natural Resources				
Mary River Wetlands: Salt water intrusion construction and upgrading of weirs for salt water intrusion control.	500	0	470	30
Total New Works	1 500	380	470	1 410
TOTAL	3 520	1 410	2 285	2 025

Minor New Works – Department

	Program \$'000	Revised Program \$'000	Expended \$'000	Revoted into 2007-08 \$'000
REVOTED WORKS				
Parks and Reserves	588	588	588	0
Environment and Conservation	64	64	20	44
Scientific and Cultural Collections	107	107	107	0
Biological Parks	1	1	1	0
Total Revoted Works	760	760	716	44
MINOR NEW WORKS				
Parks and Reserves	410	372	255	117
Biological Parks	100	133	0	133
Natural Resources	190	193	193	0
Heritage and Conservation	305	305	135	170
Scientific and Cultural Collections	120	122	8	114
Arts and Screen Industry Support	100	100	100	0
Total Minor New Works	1 225	1 225	691	534
TOTAL	1 985	1 985	1 407	578

Minor New Works Completed in 2006-07 for the Department***Parks and Reserves***

- Parks and Wildlife (Territory wide) – interpretative signage
- Parks and Wildlife (Territory wide) – stock fencing
- Adelaide River National Park – establish ranger station at Middle Point
- Casuarina Coastal Reserve, Buffalo Creek – upgrade security demountable
- Garig Gunak Barlu National Park – construction of shade shelters in camp grounds
- Howard Springs Nature Park – water aeration
- Mary River National Park (proposed) – Middle Point - power line upgrade, office upgrade, bore construction and access road
- Limmen National Park – installation of water tanks and upgrade toilet facility
- Eley National Park – Jalmurark (12 Mile campground) - upgrade hot water services

Scientific and Cultural Collections

- Herbarium, Palmerston – upgrade storage facility
- Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Bullocky Point Precinct – lighting and security camera's for Territory Craft and the main carpark

Natural Resources

- Biodiversity Conservation – office accommodation and air conditioning upgrade and erection of security/boundary
- Replacement of Bushfires Council Batchelor Office

Arts and Screen Industry Support

- The Araluen Arts Centre – upgrade emergency exit and loading dock
- The Araluen Arts Centre – upgrade lighting table
- The Araluen Arts Centre – upgrade and install fall arrest systems
- The Araluen Arts Centre – install conference LAN and communication system for venue hirers
- The Araluen Arts Centre – install point of use earth leakage protection in public spaces
- The Araluen Arts Centre – landscaping upgrade
- Northern Territory Film Office – install emergency exit signs and lighting

Repairs and Maintenance – Department

	Program \$'000	Revised Program \$'000	Expended \$'000	Revoted into 2007-08 \$'000
Parks and Reserves	3 370	3 370	3 357	13
Biological Parks	135	135	135	0
Natural Resources	283	283	275	8
Heritage and Conservation	1 162	1 162	920	242
Scientific and Cultural Collections	1 750	1 750	1 750	0
TOTAL	6 700	6 700	6 437	263

Repairs and Maintenance Projects completed in 2006-07 for the Department

- Repairs to the loading dock, cellar, fire curtain and shade structure at Alice Springs Cultural Precinct.
- Wall cladding at Bullocky Point Precinct.
- Re-seal car park at Frog Hollow.
- General repairs to Browns Mart.
- Repairs to the Rim Walk at Kings Canyon.
- Replace gas barbeques in the West MacDonnell National Park.
- Replace the shade shelter roof at Devils Marbles.
- Repairs to boardwalk at Casuarina Coastal Reserve.
- Repairs to boardwalk at Manton Dam.
- Repairs to the boat ramp at Black Point (Garig).
- Repairs to pumps and equipment at Leanyer Recreation Park.
- Repairs to elevated boardwalk at Mataranka Thermal pools.
- Repairs to the bat sprinkler system at Mataranka Thermal pools.
- Repairs to toilet facilities at Limmen National Park.
- Repairs to electrical reticulation and maintained the water treatment plant at Nitmiluk National Park.
- Continuation of repair schedule for Tennant Creek Telegraph Station.
- Repairs to Barrow Creek Telegraph Station.
- General repairs to Cape Don Historical buildings.
- Repairs to Adelaide River railway bridge support pier foundation.
- General repairs to Fannie Bay Gaol.
- Repairs to the 'Old Court House' in Alice Springs.
- Repairs to the radio repeater network for Bushfires Council (Territory wide).
- Repairs to walking tracks and fountain pumps at George Brown Botanic Gardens.

Minor New Works - Territory Wildlife Parks - GBD

	Program \$'000	Revised Program \$'000	Expended \$'000	Revoted into 2007-08 \$'000
REVOTED WORKS				
Alice Springs Desert Park	56	56	56	0
Territory Wildlife Park	12	12	1	11
Total Revoted Works	68	68	57	11
NEW WORKS				
Alice Springs Desert Park	120	120	114	6
Territory Wildlife Park	165	407	290	117
Total New Works	285	527	404	123
TOTAL	353	595	461	134

Minor New Works Projects completed in 2006-07 for Territory Wildlife Parks - GBD

- Upgrade to car park lighting at the Alice Springs Desert Park.
- Upgrade to Raptor exhibit at the Territory Wildlife Park.
- Upgrade to Frilled Neck Lizard and Salt Water exhibits at the Territory Wildlife Park.
- Upgrade to car park lighting at the Territory Wildlife Park.
- Upgrade to the walking path to the Nocturnal House at the Territory Wildlife Park.
- Upgrade to the kiosk at the Territory Wildlife Parks.

Repairs and Maintenance - Territory Wildlife Parks - GBD

	Program \$'000	Revised Program \$'000	Expended \$'000	Revoted into 2007-08 \$'000
Alice Springs Desert Park	189	189	187	2
Territory Wildlife Park	456	456	456	0
TOTAL	645	645	643	2

Repairs and Maintenance completed in 2006-07 for Territory Wildlife Parks - GBD

- Repairs and maintenance to furniture and buildings at the Alice Springs Desert Park.
- Repairs to interpretive signage at the Alice Springs Desert Park.
- Repairs to the elevated boardwalk at the Territory Wildlife Park.
- Repairs to interpretive signage at the Territory Wildlife Park.
- Repairs to electrical distribution at the Territory Wildlife Park.
- Civil and drainage works at the Territory Wildlife Park.

Externally Funded Projects – Department

Additional funding was also obtained from two other Northern Territory Government Departments (Tourism NT and the Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Mines). Contribution from these Agencies is reflective of the synergies between Agencies that have a common purpose to support the Northern Territory's economy through tourism, conservation and recreational activities.

	External Funding \$'000	NRETA Funding \$'000	Expended \$'000	Revoted into 2007-08 \$'000
Parks and Reserves				
Channel Point: Develop park infrastructure including a boat launching facility, camp ground, road, parking and interpretive display. Additional funding sourced through the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Mines.	410	620	683	437
West MacDonnell National Park (Larapinta Trail): Construct shelters, barbeques and toilet facilities on the Larapinta Trail. Funding sourced through Tourism NT.	380	0	380	0
TOTAL	790	620	1 063	437

Agency Contact Details

Arts and Museums

Araluen Arts Centre

Larapinta Drive
Alice Springs NT 0870
08 8951 1120
08 8953 0259 (fax)
araluencentre.nreta@nt.gov.au

ArtsNT - Alice Springs

Larapinta Drive
Alice Springs NT 0870
08 8951 1190
1800 678 237 (toll free)
08 8951 1161 (fax)

Arts NT - Darwin

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

Fannie Bay Gaol

East Point Road
Fannie Bay Darwin NT 0820
08 8999 8290
08 8981 8199 (fax)

Lyons Cottage

74 The Esplanade
Darwin NT 0800
08 8981 1750
08 8981 8077 (fax)

Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory

19 Conacher Street
Bullocky Point
Fannie Bay NT 0820
GPO Box 4646 Darwin NT 0801
08 89 998264
08 89 998289 (fax)
museum@nt.gov.au

Museum of Central Australia

Larrapinta Drive
Alice Springs NT 0870
08 8951 1121
08 8951 1107 (fax)
museumca.nreta@nt.gov.au

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
PO Box 831
Alice Springs NT 0871
08 8951 1111
08 8951 1110 (fax)
strehlow@nt.gov.au

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

George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens

Geranium Street
Darwin NT 0800
08 8981 1958
08 8981 1647 (fax)
botgardens.darwin@nt.gov.au

Territory Wildlife Park

Cox Peninsula Rd
Berry Springs NT 0838
PO Box 771 Palmerston NT 0831
08 8988 7200
08 8988 7201 (fax)
twp@nt.gov.au
www.territorywildlifepark.com.au

Window on the Wetlands Visitor Centre

Arnhem Highway via Humpty Doo
PO Box 771 Palmerston NT 0831
08 8988 8188
08 8988 8123 (fax)
wow.pwcnt@nt.gov.au

Environment and Heritage

2nd Floor Darwin Plaza
41 Smith Street Mall
Darwin NT 0800
08 8924 4139
08 8924 4053 (fax)

epa.nreta@nt.gov.au
heritage.nreta@nt.gov.au
environmentgrants@nt.gov.au
heritagegrants@nt.gov.au

2nd Floor Goyder Building
25 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

1st Floor Alice Springs Plaza
Alice Springs NT 0870
08 8951 9269
08 8951 9268

1st Floor Goyder Building
25 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
PO Box 496 Palmerston NT 0831
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finance.nreta@nt.gov.au
generalservices.nreta@nt.gov.au
legalservices.nreta@nt.gov.au
library.nreta@nt.gov.au
marketing.nreta@nt.gov.au
media.nreta@nt.gov.au
records.nreta@nt.gov.au
secretariat.nreta@nt.gov.au
webadmin.nreta@nt.gov.au

Land and Water**Coastal and Marine Hydrology Branch**

4th Floor Goyder Building
25 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 3694
08 8999 3666 (fax)

Land and Vegetation Branch

4th Floor Goyder Building
25 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 4579
08 8999 3667 (fax)

Land and Water Division

Southern Region
1st Floor Alice Springs Plaza
Alice Springs NT 0870
08 8951 9203
08 8951 9222 (fax)

Spatial Data and Mapping Branch

4th Floor Goyder Building
25 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 3603
08 8999 3666 (fax)

Technical Services Branch

4th Floor Goyder Building
25 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 3642
08 8999 3666 (fax)

Water Resources Branch

4th Floor Goyder Building
25 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 3606
08 8999 3666 (fax)

Biodiversity Conservation**Biodiversity Katherine / Wildlife Management**

Giles Street
Katherine NT 0870
08 8973 8857
08 8973 8899 (fax)

Biodiversity North / Wildlife Management Operations

CSIRO Complex
Vanderlin Drive
Berrimah NT 0820
08 8995 5000
08 8984 4488 (fax)

Biodiversity South / Wildlife Management

Tom Hare Building
Stuart Hwy
Alice Springs NT 0870
08 8951 8226
08 8955 5190 (fax)

Marine Biodiversity**Arafura-Timor Research Facility**

23 Ellengowan Drive
Brinkin NT 0810
08 8920 9261
08 8920 9222 (fax)
marine@nreta.gov.au

NT Herbarium - North

Ground Floor Herbarium
The Boulevard
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 4516
08 8999 4527 (fax)

NT Herbarium - South

Alice Springs Desert Park
Larapinta Drive
Alice Springs NT 0870
08 8951 8791
08 8951 8790 (fax)

Parks**Alice Springs Regional Office**

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

Darwin Region

2nd Floor Goyder Centre
25 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 4555
08 8999 4558 (fax)

parksandwildlife.permits@nt.gov.au
parksmasterplan.nreta@nt.gov.au
parkplanning.nreta@nt.gov.au
volunteer.nreta@nt.gov.au

Katherine Regional Office

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

Natural Resource Management**Bushfires NT**

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

Community Programs North

3rd Floor Goyder Centre
25 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 4464
08 8999 4403 (fax)

Rangeland Management North

3rd Floor Goyder Centre
25 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 4474
08 8999 4403 (fax)
rangelands.nreta@nt.gov.au

Resource Management Katherine Region

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

Resource Management North

3rd Floor Goyder Centre
25 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 4537
08 8999 4403 (fax)

Resource Management Southern Region

1st Floor Alice Springs Plaza
Alice Springs NT 0870
08 8951 9259
08 8951 9222 (fax)
wateradvisorysouth.nreta@nt.gov.au

Vegetation and Land Management North

3rd Floor Goyder Centre
25 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 3467
08 8999 4403 (fax)

Water Management North

3rd Floor Goyder Centre
25 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 4892
08 8999 4403 (fax)

Weed Management North

3rd Floor Goyder Building
25 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
08 8999 4414
08 8999 4403 (fax)
weedinfo.nreta@nt.gov.au

Feedback Form

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts welcomes your feedback on the 2006-07 annual report.

CONTACT DETAILS (OPTIONAL)

Name _____

Organisation _____

Postal address _____

Email _____

DOCUMENT CONTENT

The report met your needs

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

The format of the report enabled easy access to areas of interest to you

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

The report addresses issues that are in the public interest

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

The report is easy to understand

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BEST DESCRIBES YOUR PRIMARY ROLE IN READING THIS REPORT?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business interests | <input type="checkbox"/> Student |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employee | <input type="checkbox"/> Local resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contractor/ supplier | <input type="checkbox"/> Other please specify _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member of community group | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member of environmental group | |

COMMENTS

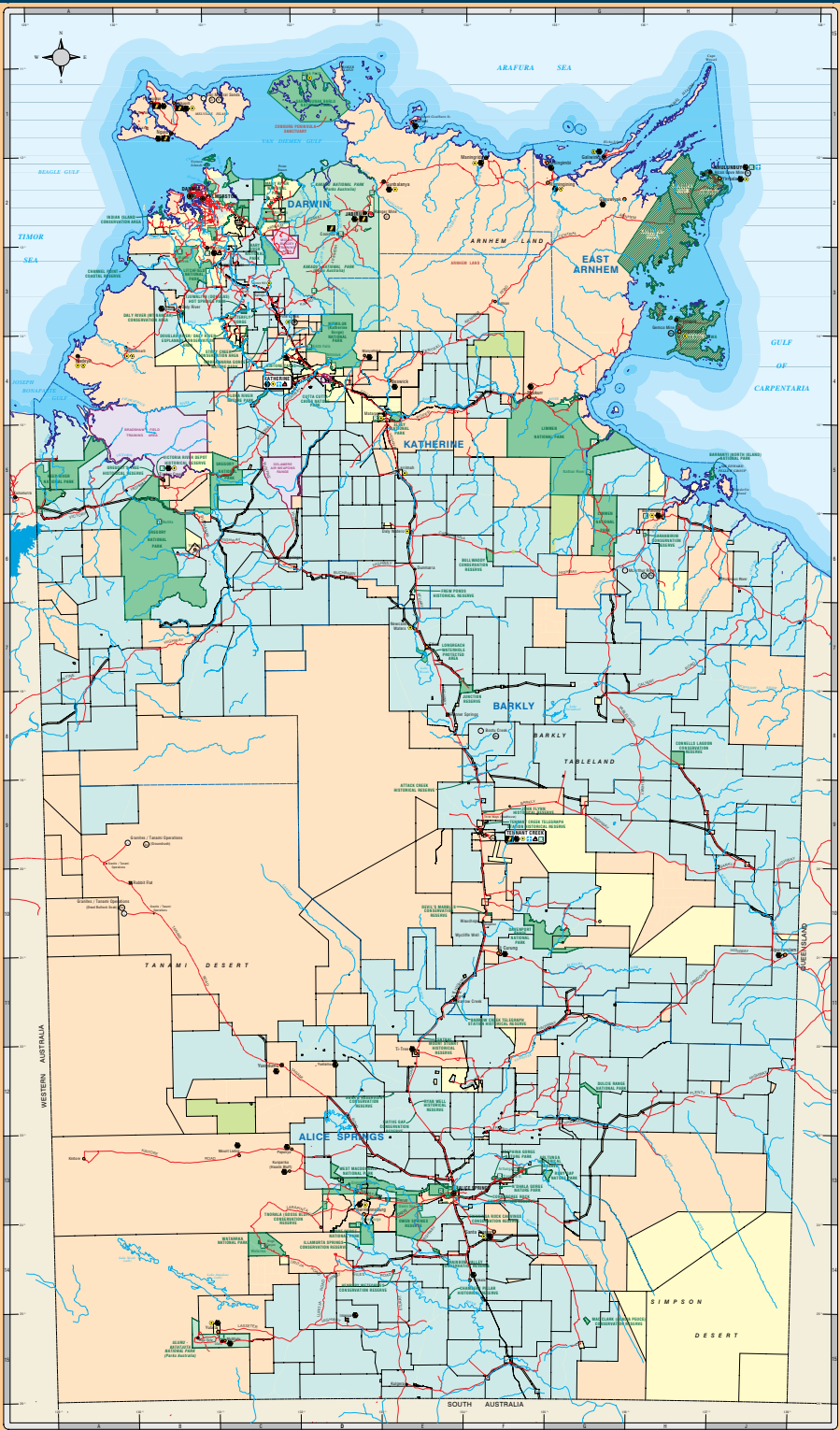
Do you have any comments or suggestions on how our future annual reports could be improved?

Once completed please post to:

Dept Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts
Reply Paid 496
Palmerston NT 0831

or alternatively

Submit your feedback electronically on the NRETA website



Darwin Region

GOVERNMENT MUSEUMS & ART GALLERIES Map Ref.

Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory	Darwin	B2
Australian Pearlshell Exhibition	Darwin	B2
Fannie Bay Gaol	Darwin	B2
Lyons Cottage	Darwin	B2

REGIONAL MUSEUMS

5th/7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment Historical Collection	Palmerston	B2
Australian Aviation Heritage Centre	Darwin	B2
Daly Waters Hangar	Daly Waters	E6
Djomi Museum, Maningrida	Maningrida	F1
East Point Military Museum	Darwin	B2
Grove Hill Historical Hotel and Museum	Grove Hill	C3
Kanamkek Yile-Ngala Museum	Wadeye	A4
Larraakeyah Branch of the National Trust (NT)	Darwin	B2
Motor Vehicle Enthusiast's Club	Darwin	B2
Mulwurri Museum	Melville Island	B1
Ngaripluwamigi Keeping Place	Bathurst Island	B1
Norforce Museum	Darwin	B2
Northern Territory Chinese Museum	Darwin	B2
Northern Territory Police Museum and Historical Society	Darwin	B2
Patakijiyali Museum and Keeping Place	Bathurst Island	B1
Peppimenarti Community Council	Peppimenarti	B4
Pine Creek Railway Station	Pine Creek	C3
Pine Creek Repeater Station Museum	Pine Creek	C3
Royal Australian Artillery Association (NT)	Darwin	B2
School of Health Sciences Nursing Museum	Darwin	B2
Tiwi Cultural Centre	Melville Island	B1
Tiwi Cultural Centre	Bathurst Island	B1
Coburg Regional Museum	Coburg Peninsula	D1

ART CENTRES

ANKAAA	Darwin	B2
Coomalie Cultural Centre	Batchelor	B1
Dunhill Arts	Nungaliya College	B2
Jilamara Arts and Crafts Association	Milikapiti, Melville Is.	B1
Larraakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation	Darwin	B2
Mardbak Arts and Crafts	Goulburn Island	E1
Marawuddi Gallery	Jabiru	D2
Merrepem Arts Aboriginal Corporation	Naiyuu	B3
Munupi Arts and Crafts Association	Pirlangimpi, Melville Is.	B1
Pwanga Wear	Nguiu, Bathurst Is.	B1
Tiwi Design Aboriginal Corporation	Nguiu, Bathurst Is.	B1

CULTURAL CENTRES

Jabiru	Jabiru	D2
Cooinda	Jabiru	D2
Darwin (proposed)	Darwin	B2

KNOWLEDGE CENTRES

Wadeye	Daly River/Port Keats	A4
Peppimenarti (proposed)	Daly River/Port Keats	B4

East Arnhem Region

REGIONAL MUSEUMS

Angurugu Museum	Groote Eylandt	H3
Buku-Larrngay Mulka	Yirrkala	H2
Injalak Arts and Crafts	Gunbalanya	E2

ART CENTRES

Anindilyakwa Art	Alyangula	H3
Buku-Larrngay	Yirrkala	H2
Bula'bula Arts Aboriginal Corporation	Ramingining	F2
Elcho Island Art and Craft	Galiwinku	G1
Injalak Arts and Crafts	Oenpelli	E2
Maningrida Arts and Culture	Maningrida	F1
Milingimbi Art and Culture Aboriginal Corporation	Milingimbi	F2
YBE Arts and Crafts	Nhulunbuy	H2
Ngukurr Arts	Ngukurr	F2
Gapuwiyak (proposed)	Gapuwiyak	G4

KNOWLEDGE CENTRES

Galiwinku	Galiwinku	G1
Ramingining	Ramingining	F2
Alyangula (proposed)	Groote Eylandt	H3
Angurugu (proposed)	Groote Eylandt	H3
Milingimbi (proposed)	Milingimbi	F2
Umbakumba (proposed)	Groote Eylandt	H3

Katherine Region

REGIONAL MUSEUMS

Katherine Railway Station Museum	Katherine	D4
Katherine Regional Cultural Centre Precinct Group	Katherine	D4
Mimi Aboriginal Art & Craft	Katherine	D4
Never Never Museum	Mataranka	E4
Old Borroloola Police Station	Borroloola	H6
The Historical Society of Katherine Museum	Katherine	D4
Timber Creek Police Station Museum	Timber Creek	B5

NRETA Supported Centres

Katherine Region (Continued)

ART CENTRES

Jarraluk Arts and Crafts Aboriginal Association	Beswick	E4
Manyallaluk Art and Craft Centre	Manyallaluk	D4
Mimi Arts and Crafts Katherine	Katherine	D4
Ngaliwuru-Wuli Association	Timber Creek	B5

CULTURAL CENTRES

Katherine (proposed)	Katherine	D4
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Barkly Region

REGIONAL MUSEUMS

Battery Hill Mining Centre	Tennant Creek	F9
Jones Store/George Man Fong's House	Newcastle Waters	E7
Nyinkka Nyunya Art and Culture Centre	Tennant Creek	F9
Tennant Creek Art Gallery	Tennant Creek	F9
Tuxworth - Fullwood House	Tennant Creek	F9

ART CENTRES

Ali Curung Womens Centre	Ali Curung	F10
Barkly Regional Arts	Tennant Creek	F9
Julaikari Arts	Mulga Camp, Tennant Creek	F9
Waralungku Arts	Borroloola	H6
Alpururulum Art Centre	Alpururulum	J10

CULTURAL CENTRES

Nyinkka Nyunya Culture Centre	Tennant Creek	F9
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Alice Springs Region

GOVERNMENT MUSEUMS & ART GALLERIES

Museum of Central Australia	Alice Springs	E13
Arluen Art Centre & Gallery	Alice Springs	E13
Strehlow Research Centre	Alice Springs	E13

REGIONAL MUSEUMS

Adelaide House	Alice Springs	E13
Alice Springs RSL War Museum	Alice Springs	E13
Alice Springs Telegraph Station	Alice Springs	E13
Central Australian Aviation Museum	Alice Springs	E13
Fred McKay Memorial Museum	Alice Springs	E13
Ghan Preservation Society	Alice Springs	E13
Hartley Street School	Alice Springs	E13
Heritage Alice Springs	Alice Springs	E13
Hermannsburg Heritage Precinct	Hermannsburg	D13
Maruku Arts and Crafts	Uluru	C15
National Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame	Alice Springs	E13
National Road Transport Hall of Fame	Alice Springs	E13
Old Timers Tragger Museum	Alice Springs	E13
Royal Flying Doctor Service Base	Alice Springs	E13
Santa Teresa Museum	Santa Teresa	E13
St Mary's Family Chapel	Alice Springs	E13

ART CENTRES

Alice Springs Prison Group	Alice Springs	E13
Artists of Amplatwatja	Amplatwatja	G11
Bindi Inc - Mwerre Anthure	Alice Springs	E13
Desart Inc	Alice Springs	E13
Green Bush Arts Group	Alice Springs	E13
Hermannsburg Potters	Hermannsburg	D13
Irrkerlantye Arts	Alice Springs	E13
Irruntyju Arts	South Australian Border	
Jangpana Performance Group	Alice Springs	E13
Keringke Arts	Santa Teresa	F14
Maruku Arts	Uluru	C15
Ngurratjuta Nijja Arrja Art Centre	Alice Springs	E13
Ntaria Arts Centre	Hermannsburg	D13
Nyangatjatjara College	Yulara	C15
Papunya Tula Artists	Alice Springs	E13
Tangentyere Artists	Alice Springs	E13
Tijikala Art Centre	Tapatjatjaka	F14
Tjanpi Aboriginal Baskets	Alice Springs	E13
Tjuwanpa Arts	Hermannsburg	D13
Waikatjara Art Uluru	Mutitjulu	C15
Warlukurlangu Artists	Yuendumu	C12
Warumpi Arts	Papunya	D13
Watiyawanu Artists	Mount Liebig	C13
Wulu Arts Group	Alice Springs	E13
Ikuntji Art Centre	Haasts Bluff	C13
Imanpa Art Centre	Impanpa	D15
Red Sand Art Centre	Ti Tree	E12
Yuelamu Art Centre	Yuelamu	D12

CULTURAL CENTRES

Alice Springs	Alice Springs	E13
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POPULATION CENTRES

- Population > 50000
- Population 20000 - 50000
- Population 5000 - 20000
- Population centre 1000 - 5000
- Population centre 500 - 1000
- Population centre 100 - 500
- Population centre 20 - 100

LAND USE & ADMINISTRATIVE FEATURES

- NITMILUK** Parks managed by Parks and Wildlife Service (Northern Territory Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts)
- KAKADU** Parks managed by Parks Australia (Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage)
- Declared Indigenous Protected Area
- Proposed Indigenous Protected Area
- Privately managed conservation areas
- Defence establishment, base or training area (Commonwealth Department of Defence)
- Pastoral land
- WAKAYA** Aboriginal land / Land Trust name
- Other land
- Regional boundary
- Land council boundary
- State / Territory border

GENERAL FEATURES

- Government museum
- Regional museum
- Art centre
- Knowledge precinct
- Cultural precinct
- Park Ranger station
- Bushfires Council Office

ROAD & RAILWAY FEATURES

- Dual carriageway
- Principal road - sealed
- Principal road - unsealed
- Secondary road - sealed
- Secondary road - unsealed
- Minor road - sealed
- Minor road - unsealed
- National route number
- State route number

MAJOR MINES & ENERGY

- Operating mine; open pit, underground
- Bauxite, Manganese, Uranium
- Gold, Zinc, Lead
- Silver, Zircon, Rutile
- Gas field, Oil and Gas field
- Liquid Natural Gas plant

HYDROGRAPHIC & MARITIME FEATURES

- Watercourse, lake
- Coastline
- Water reservoir
- Lighthouse

Note: In the larger centres, eg Alice Springs, only one symbol of each feature is shown on the map. Proposed cultural centres and precincts are included.

