

# Performance Reporting



### Output Group: Protected Areas and Conservation

Protected areas in the Territory are made up of many land holding and management agreements. National Parks and Reserves declared under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Act*, serve a conservation and public enjoyment outcome. Indigenous Protected Areas are Indigenous-owned land or sea where Traditional Owners have entered into agreements with the Australian Government to promote biodiversity and conservation. Private landholders who have signed agreements or covenants for their land also contribute to the make-up of protected areas in the Territory.

The outcomes of this Output Group are protection of the natural and cultural assets in the Territory’s parks estate and creation of educational and recreational opportunities based on these assets with increased community involvement in protected areas management and wildlife conservation across the Territory.

This Output Group is attributed \$58.3 million of the Department’s \$192.4 million budget.

There are three Outputs within this Output Group:

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

### Output: Parks Joint Management Programs

Parks Joint Management Programs establishes equitable joint management partnerships with local Traditional Owners to manage, maintain and protect the biodiversity of Parks and Reserves.

#### Performance Measures: Parks Joint Management Programs

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Actual	11–12 Estimate	11–12 Actual	12–13 Budget
Operational Joint Management Plans <sup>1</sup>	7	7	8	14	15 <sup>2</sup>	23 <sup>3</sup>
Active joint management committees <sup>4</sup>	5	8	10	15	11 <sup>5</sup>	18 <sup>6</sup>

#### Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Joint Management Plans are statutory documents prepared under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*. They set out the directions of management and governance for the Park under joint management arrangements with Traditional Owners, ensuring the effective management of each park’s key values. There are a total of 32 jointly managed Parks, with 27 scheduled under the *Parks and Reserves (Framework for Future) Act*.
2. Seven new Joint Management Plans became operational in 2011–12 bringing the total operational Joint Management Plans to 15.
3. The increase in Joint Management Plans for 2012–13 reflects there are 10 draft Joint Management Plans expected to be finalised and tabled in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly. This will see a cumulative total of 23 Parks in the Territory having operational Joint Management Plans.
4. Active joint management committees apply to jointly managed parks under both the *Parks and Reserves (Framework for the Future) Act* and other statutes and joint management agreements. They include representatives of the Traditional Owner group and the Territory Government.

5. There are 11 active Joint Management Committees covering the following Parks and Reserves:
1. Daminmin Joint Management Committee for the Adelaide River group of Parks, east of Darwin (Fogg Dam, Black Jungle / Lambells Lagoon, Harrison Dam, and Melacca Swamp Conservation Reserves);
  2. Mary River National Park, east of Darwin;
  3. Judbarra / Gregory National Park and Gregory's Tree Historical Reserve, west of Katherine;
  4. Giwining / Flora River Nature Park, west of Katherine;
  5. Watarrka National Park, south-west of Alice Springs;
  6. Trepkina Gorge Nature Park, Corroboree Rock Conservation Reserve and N'Dhala Gorge Conservation Reserve, east of Alice Springs;
  7. Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve, south of Alice Springs;
  8. Chamber's Pillar Historical Reserve, south of Alice Springs;
  9. Karlu-Karlu / Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve, south of Tennant Creek;
  10. Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park, south-east of Tennant Creek; and
  11. Eastern area of the West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs.

There was one new Joint Management Committee established for the eastern area of the West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs.

6. In 2012–13 seven Active Joint Management Committees are expected to become operational, these include:
- West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs;
  - Finke Gorge National Park, west of Alice Springs;
  - Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve;

- Emily Gap Nature Park, east of Alice Springs;
- Jessie Gap Nature Park, east of Alice Springs;
- Umbrawarra Gorge Nature Park, south of Darwin; and
- Tjuwalyin (Douglas) Hot Springs Park, north-west of Katherine.

### Key Achievements in 2011–12: Parks Joint Management Programs

1. Passed the following seven Joint Management Plans through the Legislative Assembly to bring them into formal operation:
  - Judbarra / Gregory National Park, west of Katherine;
  - Gregory's Tree Historical Reserve, west of Katherine;
  - Giwining / Flora River Nature Park, west of Katherine;
  - Trepkina Gorge Nature Park, east of Alice Springs;
  - N'Dhala Gorge Nature Park, east of Alice Springs;
  - Corroboree Rock Conservation Reserve, east of Alice Springs; and
  - Finke Gorge National Park, west of Alice Springs.
2. Completed consultation on the draft Joint Management Plan for Mary River National Park, east of Darwin, and tabled the final Plan in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly in March 2012. The Plan will become operational in 2012–13.
3. Established a new Joint Management Committee for the eastern area of the West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs.
4. Developed a framework for the effective governance of jointly managed parks including tools and procedures to assist Agency employees improve engagement with joint management partners.
5. Incorporated a range of governance improvement processes into joint management committee meetings, including procedures for effective meetings and operational project teams, as well processes to streamline permit approval processes for special activities.

### Challenges in 2011–12: Parks Joint Management Programs

1. Delays in the transfer of title to Indigenous ownership of Watarrka National Park, south-west of Alice Springs; and West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs has prevented the tabling of these Parks' Joint Management Plans in 2011–12. Title transfers were complicated by the need to resolve third parties' interests, which required substantial negotiation.
2. Completion of the Draft Plan of Management for Garig Gunak Barlu National Park, north-east of Darwin, was not finalised due to the resurrection of the original land claim by Traditional Owners.
3. Delays occurred with releasing the following draft Joint Management Plans for public comment:
  - Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve;
  - Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve, east of Darwin;
  - Harrison Dam Conservation Reserve, east of Darwin;
  - Melacca Swamp Conservation Reserve, east of Darwin; and
  - Black Jungle / Lambells Lagoon Conservation Reserve, east of Darwin.
4. Completion of the draft Joint Management Plan for Iytwelepenty / Davenport Range National Park, south-east of Tennant Creek, could not be finalised as unresolved land tenure matters are still being negotiated.
5. Delays occurred with the following Joint Management Agreements:
  - Tjuwalyn (Douglas) Hot Springs, north of Katherine;
  - Umbrawarra Gorge, north of Katherine; and
  - Barranyi National Park, north-east of Borroloola.

Draft agreements are being considered by Traditional Owners and the Northern Land Council.

### Future Priorities in 2012–13: Parks Joint Management Programs

1. Complete the following Parks and Reserves Joint Management Plans, made operational by passage through the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly:
  - West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs;
  - Watarrka National Park, south-west of Alice Springs;
  - Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve, east of Alice Springs;
  - Emily and Jessie Gap Nature Park, east of Alice Springs;
  - Mary River National Park, south-east of Darwin;
  - Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve, east of Darwin;
  - Harrison Dam Conservation Reserve, east of Darwin;
  - Black Jungle / Lambells Lagoon Conservation Reserve, east of Darwin;
  - Melacca Swamp Conservation Reserve, east of Darwin;
  - Nitmiluk National Park, north-east of Katherine; and
  - Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation Reserve, south of Alice Springs.
2. Complete Joint Management agreements for:
  - Tjuwalyn (Douglas) Hot Springs Nature Park, north of Katherine;
  - Umbrawarra Gorge Nature Park, north of Katherine; and
  - Barranyi National Park, east of Borroloola.
3. Implement a practical and effective monitoring and evaluation process for the following six jointly managed Parks, for the purpose of informing adaptive approaches to the level and style of engagement and governance with joint management partners:

- Giwining / Flora River Nature Park, east of Darwin;
  - Mary River National Park, east of Darwin;
  - Adelaide River Parks (Daminmin), east of Darwin;
  - Watarrka National Park, west of Alice Springs;
  - Karlu Karlu / Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve, south of Tennant Creek; and
  - Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve, south of Alice Springs.
4. Complete governance training programs and implement standards for the Nitmiluk National Park Board and Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary and Marine Park Board.

### Output: Parks Visitor Management Programs

Parks Visitor Management Programs create educational and recreational opportunities based on sustainable use of the natural and cultural assets of the Parks estate.

### Performance Measures: Parks Visitor Management Programs

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Actual	11–12 Estimate	11–12 Actual	12–13 Budget
Total visits to Territory parks (million) <sup>1</sup>	2.6	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.7 <sup>2</sup>	2.9
Visitor satisfaction <sup>3</sup>	87.3%	91.6%	86%	92%	92%	92%

### Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Total visits were derived from a core group of Territory Parks where annual visitations exceed 5 000 per year for which data collection methods produce the most reliable data. Data collected from these core Parks capture the majority of total Park visits.
2. There has been a decrease in visitor numbers to the Northern Territory from the previous year and this is consistently reflected in the visitor number data provided by Tourism NT. As a result slightly fewer persons visited Territory Parks this year.
3. Visitor satisfaction was assessed by way of intercept questionnaires where Park visitors were asked a series of questions relating to their experience when visiting the West MacDonnell Ranges National Park, west of Alice Springs and Litchfield National Park, south of Darwin.

### Key Achievements in 2011–12: Parks Visitor Management Programs

1. Completed the following Park developments:
  - \$1.5M water play area and viewing platform at Howard Springs Nature Reserve, south of Darwin;
  - \$0.3M solar hybrid power system at Ormiston Gorge Ranger Station, west of Alice Springs;
  - \$0.23M campground creation at Rainbow Valley, south of Alice Springs;
  - \$0.15M campground upgrade at Trepkina Gorge, east of Alice Springs;
  - \$0.15M campsite upgrade and re-alignment of tracks at Jatbula Trail, Nitmiluk National Park, north of Katherine;
  - \$0.13M installation of composting toilets at 8th Gorge and Dunlop Swamp, Nitmiluk National Park, north of Katherine;
  - \$0.11M installation of a kiosk and kitchen at Ormiston Gorge, west of Alice Springs; and
  - \$0.1M new walking track along the Roper River from Roper Junction to 4 Mile at Elsey National Park, east of Mataranka.
2. Commenced construction of the following Park developments:
  - \$2.54M for the Wangi Falls Centre in Litchfield National Park, south of Darwin which is to be completed in 2012–13. The Centre will be a multi functional venue providing visitor information, a cafe, seating, local art for sale, a first aid room and a campground office; and
  - \$1.5M for head works and upgrades at Munbililla Campground (Tomato Island) in Limmen National Park, east of Katherine. The project includes a new tent and caravan campground area, toilet facilities, barbeques and related visitor amenities. Upgrades are expected to be completed in 2012–13.

3. Provided \$0.6M to Tourism Central Australia to finalise the development of the Red Centre Way West MacDonnell Discovery Centre in the Alice Springs central business district. This is scheduled to open in 2012–13.
4. Consulted with the community on the draft Litchfield National Park Plan of Management. The draft Plan proposes several development changes to enhance visitor experience and promote Litchfield National Park, south of Darwin, which includes
  - A glass viewing platform for Tolmer Falls;
  - Two mountain bike loops; and
  - Adventure activities such as zip lining.The Plan is expected to be finalised in 2012–13.
5. Finalised commercial arrangements with the Jawoyn Association to enable construction of the Cicada Lodge eco accommodation facility at Nitmiluk National Park, north of Katherine. This is scheduled to be open in 2012–13.
6. Organised a new bike trail track through the Alice Springs Telegraph Station in conjunction with the Central Australian Rough Riders (mountain bike club). An international competition was held in March 2012 attracting 72 competitors.
7. Introduced an online renewal process for Tour Operator permits, reducing wait times for tourism operators.
8. Established an Agency Parks and Wildlife Facebook page to further enhance online engagement and provide a digital tool for direct communication between Rangers and stakeholders. The page was established in January 2012 and has over 700 'likes' with positive interaction from the community.

### Challenges in 2011–12: Parks Visitor Management Programs

1. Construction of a playground at Casuarina Coastal Reserve, Darwin, was deferred until further community consultation is carried out, and conducted in conjunction with the City of Darwin.
2. Extensive damage caused by the 2011 December floods saw delays in opening the Nitmiluk National Park to Edith Falls camping area at Leliyn, north of Katherine. Major reconstruction works had to be completed before the area could be opened to the public, which reopened in April 2012.
3. Delays in opening many National Parks in Central Australia including Davenport Ranges National Park, south-east of Tennant Creek, West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs and Watarrka National Park, south-west of Alice Springs, impacted on visitor access due to an extended fire season.
4. Record Wet season rainfall saw many Parks in the Top End close for visitor safety. Many Parks were also delayed in re-opening due to the volumes of water which cut roads and increased crocodile mobility, impacting on visitor access.
5. Managing the risk of asbestos, in conjunction with the Territory Government's Department of Health and the City of Darwin, which is washing onto Nightcliff, Rapid Creek and Casuarina Coastal Reserve beaches.

### Future Priorities in 2012–13: Parks Visitor Management Programs

1. Complete the following Park developments:
  - \$2.54M Wangi Falls Centre, in Litchfield National Park, south of Darwin;
  - \$1.5M visitor facilities at Munbililla (Tomato Island) in Limmen National Park, east of Katherine;
  - \$0.5M installation of playground, walking and bicycle tracks and upgraded picnic facilities at Howard Springs Nature Park, south of Darwin;
  - \$0.45M solar hybrid power generation for the Ranger Station at Keep River National, west of Katherine;
  - \$0.45M solar hybrid power generation for the ranger station at Bullita, Judbarra / Gregory National Park, west of Katherine;
  - \$0.4M upgrade of existing toilet facilities and change rooms at Buley Rockhole, Litchfield National Park, south of Darwin;
  - \$0.36M installation of shade, toilets and water storage at Serpentine Gorge track head on the Larapinta Trail at West MacDonnell National Park, near Alice Springs;
  - \$0.15M upgrades to Jatbula Trail in Nitmiluk National Park, north of Katherine, to include enhanced trekking facilities and separate tour group camping areas; and
  - \$0.12M visitor picnic area at Windows on the Wetlands, south-east of Darwin.
2. Finalise the Litchfield National Park Plan of Management.
3. Introduce an online booking and payment system for priority campgrounds in high visitation Parks.
4. Develop a Tourism and Recreation Master Plan to determine future tourism development priorities across all Northern Territory Parks and Reserves.
5. Develop a Plan of Management for Casuarina Coastal Reserve, Darwin with community consultation to identify future urban recreational and conservation activities.
6. Develop and introduce a vision statement that promotes increased involvement in Park management through the people it employs, the environment, through ownership and partnerships and through linkages and experience.



## Output: Conservation Management Programs

Conservation Management Programs protect the natural and cultural assets within the Northern Territory's Parks estate and support protected area and wildlife conservation management across the Territory.

### Performance Measures: Conservation Management Programs

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Actual	11–12 Estimate	11–12 Actual	12–13 Budget
Hectares under conservation management <sup>1</sup>	13M	15.2M	16M	26.4M	16.2M <sup>2</sup>	26.5M <sup>3</sup>
Collaborative biodiversity surveys undertaken	15	24	25	20	19 <sup>4</sup>	16
Species being actively managed <sup>5</sup>	24	28	40	40	41 <sup>6</sup>	40
Managed species reporting beneficial trends <sup>7</sup>	7	14	21	23	23 <sup>8</sup>	22

### Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Hectares under conservation management includes all of the Parks and Reserves managed by the Territory Government, Australian Government, Indigenous Protected Areas and areas managed for conservation on private and other government lands.
2. The target of 26.4M<sup>2</sup> ha under conservation management was not achieved due to the delayed declaration of the Southern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area. This declaration was initially scheduled for April 2012 but has been delayed until 12 July 2012.
3. In 2012–13 there is an expected increase due to a number of proposed conservation agreements with private landholders, which are confidential until finalised. The Southern Tanami Indigenous Protected Areas will also be declared.

4. Collaborative biodiversity surveys are undertaken with other groups such as Indigenous Rangers, Traditional Owners, pastoral owners and other community groups.

Nineteen collaborative biodiversity surveys were undertaken:

1. Djelk Indigenous Protected Area, south of Maningrida
2. Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area, east of Oenpelli
3. Weddell (frogs and marine habitats), south of Darwin
4. Kakadu National Park (biodiversity hotspots), east of Darwin
5. Litchfield National Park, south of Darwin
6. Laynhapuy Indigenous Protected Area, south-west of Nhulunbuy
7. Paw Paw Springs, Tipperary Station, south-west of Darwin
8. Fish River Station, south-west of Darwin
9. Bynoe Harbour, west of Darwin
10. Darwin Harbour (fish, seagrasses and habitat mapping)
11. Bushland fragments in Howards Springs and Lambells Lagoon, east of Darwin
12. Gurig National Park, north-east of Darwin
13. West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs
14. Murrnji Station, north-west of Tennant Creek
15. Simpson Desert rocky areas, south-east of Alice Springs
16. Katiti Petermann Aboriginal Land Trust (with Docker River Rangers), south-west of Alice Springs
17. Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust (with Papunya Rangers), west of Alice Springs
18. Loves Creek areas (with Central Land Council), north-east of Alice Springs
19. Ti-Tree area (Amnatjerre Rangers), north of Alice Springs

This is less than the 2011–12 estimate as proposed biodiversity surveys in Watarrka and Finke Gorge National Parks, south-west of Alice Springs, were postponed in order to concentrate survey effort in the large West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs.

5. Species being actively managed is a new key deliverable for this Output Group in 2011–12. “Actively managed” includes species (or species group) for which there is a recovery plan, formal management program, targeted monitoring program, or other currently active engagement with relevant land managers.
6. The 41 species being actively managed were:
  1. Camel
  2. Saltwater crocodile
  3. Freshwater crocodile
  4. Magpie goose
  5. Cycads
  6. Green turtle
  7. Flatback turtle
  8. Snubfin dolphin
  9. Humpback dolphin
  10. Coastal bottle-nosed dolphin
  11. Dugong
  12. Migratory shorebirds
  13. Mala
  14. Common brushtail possum (Central Australian population)
  15. Central rock-rat
  16. Brush-tailed mulgara
  17. Crest-tailed mulgara
  18. Greater bilby
  19. Pale field-rat
  20. Northern quoll
  21. Northern brushtail possum
  22. Northern brown bandicoot
  23. Black-footed tree-rat
  24. Brush-tailed rabbit-rat
  25. Golden bandicoot

26. Princess parrot
27. Gouldian finch
28. White-throated grass-wren
29. Oenpelli python
30. Yellow-snouted gecko
31. Slater’s skink
32. Howard River toadlet
33. Atlas moth
34. *Ordtrachia australis* (landsnail)
35. *Ordtrachia septentrionalis* (landsnail)
36. Waddy-wood (*Acacia peuce*)
37. Quandong (*Santalum acuminatum*)
38. Red cabbage palm (*Livistona mariae*)
39. *Typhonium taylori* (a small herb)
40. *Boronia quadrilata* (a shrub)
41. *Boronia viridiflora* (a shrub)

The increase from the 2011–12 estimate is due to the inclusion of monitoring of migratory shorebird populations.

7. Beneficial trends refers to the desirable management outcome for managed or monitored species and may be decreasing (for pest species), increasing and/or stable (for native species) and may include a change of status due to improved knowledge.
8. The 23 species that showed beneficial trends were:
  1. Camel
  2. Saltwater crocodile
  3. Magpie goose
  4. Cycads
  5. Snubfin dolphin
  6. Humpback dolphin
  7. Dugong

8. Mala
9. Central rock-rat
10. Brush-tailed mulgara
11. Crest-tailed mulgara
12. Golden bandicoot
13. Princess parrot
14. Gouldian finch
15. White-throated grass-wren
16. Slater's skink
17. Oenpelli python
18. Yellow-snouted gecko
19. Howard River toadlet
20. Atlas moth
21. Waddy-wood (*Acacia peuce*)
22. Red cabbage palm (*Livistona mariae*)
23. *Boronia viridiflora* (a shrub)

### Key Achievements in 2011–12: Conservation Management Programs

1. Expanded the Indigenous Employment Program through the \$2.1M allocated to the Agency's Parks and Wildlife Service for employment in flexible and contract programs. This includes:
  - Employment of 12 Indigenous employees, which include apprenticeships and one office-based apprenticeship. These are located in:
    - Darwin Parks;
    - Garig Gunak Barlu National Park, east of Darwin;
    - Wildlife Operations, Darwin;
    - Ormiston Gorge, West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs; and
    - Alice Springs Telegraph Station.
2. Provided work opportunities to support an emerging Women's Ranger Group based at Tjuwanpa Outstation Resource Centre at Finke Gorge National Park, west of Alice Springs.
3. Progressed the Territory Eco-link initiative where more than 2 000 km of connected conservation corridors will be created to provide protection habitats for plants and animals stretching from the Top End to the Red Centre. More than 30 000 hectares of private land was committed to the Land for Wildlife program.
4. Removed 282 saltwater crocodiles from the Darwin Harbour Crocodile Management Zone as part of the Be Crocwise Strategy and continued to deliver the Be Crocwise Education Campaign to school aged children.
  - Employment of 15 full time equivalent people for Park management activities through:
    - New flexible employment programs at:**
      - Casuarina Coastal Reserve and Holmes Jungle Nature Park, Darwin, by the Larrakia Rangers;
      - Litchfield National Park, south of Darwin, by some four different Aboriginal enterprises; and
      - Eley National Park, south of Katherine, for Moulgen Camp at Mataranka and Jilkmingan community members.
    - Expanded Flexible Employment Programs at:**
      - Judbarra / Gregory National Park, west of Katherine;
      - Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve, west of Alice Springs;
      - West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs; and
      - Finke Gorge National Park, west of Alice Springs.

5. Implemented the Collaborative Management Agreement between the Agency's Windows on the Wetland facility and Traditional Custodians in September 2011, which includes actively encouraging and supporting the facility to be completely staffed by Limilngan-Wulna people at all employment levels. A young Limilngan-Wulna person is undertaking a school based apprenticeship and an additional three Local Custodians have undertaken work experience at the facility's Visitor's Centre.
6. Worked with ten Indigenous ranger groups on threatened species management, wildlife surveys and establishing monitoring programs. This included the ongoing placement of an Agency biodiversity scientist within the Djelk and Warddeken Indigenous Protected Areas (covering the area between Oenpelli and Maningrida). The ranger groups were:
  - Anmatyerr Rangers, north of Alice Springs;
  - Djelk Rangers, east of Darwin;
  - Docker River Rangers, west of Alice Springs;
  - Finke community members, south of Alice Springs;
  - Fish River Rangers, south of Darwin;
  - Gumurr Marthakal Rangers, west of Nhulunbuy;
  - Papunya Rangers, west of Alice Springs;
  - Tjuwumpa Rangers, west of Alice Springs;
  - Warddeken Rangers, east of Darwin; and
  - Yirralka Rangers, south of Nhulunbuy.
7. Conducted community consultation on the proposed declarations of Limmen National Park and Limmen Bight Marine Park, east of Katherine. The proposal would add more than 1 million hectares to the Parks estate. Limmen Bight Marine Park would also become the first marine park in Territory waters in 29 years and includes significant conservation values around extensive seagrass beds, marine turtles and dugongs.
8. Continued the development of a comprehensive program for monitoring important biodiversity values in Darwin Harbour. This included use of underwater video cameras to survey fish communities, aerial surveys to count dugong populations, and photo-identification of dorsal fins to monitor coastal dolphin populations. School groups were involved in monitoring seagrass condition at Fannie Bay and Casuarina Beach, in Darwin, and underwater cameras used to map the extent of seagrass patches.
9. Submitted a proposal to the Australian Government to amend the Saltwater Crocodile Management Program to permit safari hunting of saltwater crocodiles in the Territory. This proposal was released for public comment in June 2012 outlining the Territory's crocodile egg and animal harvest program is sustainable, with an estimated 85 000–100 000 non-hatchling animals in the Northern Territory.
10. Continued work on the National Feral Camel Management Project, which will reduce the density of feral camels in Central Australia, and reduce impacts on key environmental and cultural assets. Culling resumed in October 2011 following the return of dry conditions, and approximately 25 000 camels have been culled from the Northern Territory in 2011–12. Baseline monitoring was ongoing and included training 300 Indigenous rangers and Traditional Owners in wetland and vegetation monitoring.
11. Issued permits for the trial harvest and captive breeding of Oenpelli Python to Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation and Woma Pty Ltd. The first legally harvested reptile from the wild was collected from the western Arnhem Land in March 2012. A best-practice monitoring regime has been implemented to ensure the genetic lineage of all captive Oenpelli Pythons can be traced.

12. Continued to work with Indigenous biocultural knowledge custodians in a number of language groups in north-western Australia to document the traditional heritage associated with plants and animals in their country. This included the publication of books for the Jaminjung, Ngaliwurru and Nungali languages in Judbarra / Gregory National Park, west of Katherine and the Mangarrayi and Yangman languages associated with Elsey National Park, east of Mataranka. Fieldwork with elders was completed for the Dalabon, Bilinarra, Gurindji, Malngin and Walmajarri languages, and funding secured for the printing of their forthcoming biocultural knowledge books.
13. Undertook biodiversity surveys and monitoring programs in National Parks and other protected areas to provide objective baselines and indicators for tracking conservation outcomes at:
- Litchfield National Park, south of Darwin;
  - Garig Gunak Barlu, north-east of Darwin;
  - Gregory National Park, south-west of Katherine;
  - West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs; and
  - Fish River Station, south of Darwin.
- A highlight from the programs was confirmation the endangered central rock-rat still exists on rugged mountain tops in the West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs.
14. Worked with a broad range of partners to develop the Northern Australian Hub of the National Environmental Research Program, based at Charles Darwin University. The Hub aims to improve biodiversity conservation in northern Australia through sound planning, innovative policy and strong partnerships. The Agency is leading a major project to research and manage the decline of native small mammals, as well as projects around management of feral cats and tools for biodiversity monitoring.

15. Developed a web portal to allow members of the public to input biodiversity information into the Agency Fauna Atlas, and work continued to allow improved public access to biodiversity data.

### Challenges in 2011–12: Conservation Management Programs

1. Development of marine parks and the pursuit of safari hunting for saltwater crocodiles requires extensive and ongoing consultation with stakeholders and the community.
2. Continuing to develop methods for biodiversity monitoring that are suitable for a range of land managers and can be sustained long-term; as well as tools for easy exchange of biodiversity information to and from the broader community.
3. Developing a response to small mammal decline is ongoing with options around effective feral cat management in Kakadu, Garig Gunak Barlu National Park and the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area, east of Katherine being trialled.

### Future Priorities in 2012–13: Conservation Management Programs

1. Continue to build strong contracting arrangements with Indigenous Ranger Groups for park land management activities.
2. Continue to seek opportunities to support business enterprise at Window on the Wetlands Visitor Centre by Local Custodians and increase visitor attendance.
3. Improve monitoring and reporting to enable better assessment of effectiveness of conservation management on parks.
4. Continue to support the growth of the off-park conservation estate through the Territory Eco-link program.
5. Increase outcomes in conservation programs through flexible and contract employment of Indigenous people on the following parks:
  - Casuarina Coastal Reserve in Darwin;

- Mary River National Park, south-east of Darwin;
  - Garig Gunak Barlu National Park, east of Darwin;
  - Litchfield National Park, south of Darwin;
  - Nitmiluk National Park, north-east of Katherine;
  - Judbarra / Gregory National Park, west of Katherine;
  - Limmen National Park, east of Katherine;
  - Keep River National Park, west of Katherine;
  - Elsey National Park, east of Mataranka;
  - West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs;
  - Watarraka National Park, west of Alice Springs;
  - Finke Gorge National Park, west of Alice Springs;
  - Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve, east of Alice Springs;
  - Iytwelepenty / Davenport Range National Park, south-east of Tennant Creek; and
  - Karlu Karlu / Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve, south of Tennant Creek.
6. Prepare a Management Plan for the Limmen Bight Marine Park, south-east of Katherine, in consultation with stakeholders, including the development of general principles for the establishment of Marine Protected Areas.
  7. Complete a Biodiversity Strategy for the Northern Territory.
  8. Complete a baseline habitat map of Darwin Harbour, which will provide essential information for environmental monitoring in the Harbour, and further develop the enhanced biodiversity monitoring program.
  9. Continue to build the number of sites for long-term monitoring of biodiversity in Central Australia, particularly in the West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs, and in the Simpson Desert, south-east of Alice Springs.
  10. Continue to work with Indigenous communities and elders to document Traditional Ecological Knowledge, develop conservation management and monitoring programs; and establish and maintain viable livelihoods based on sustainable use of wildlife.
  11. Implement a successful trial of safari hunting for saltwater crocodiles in the Northern Territory if proposed changes to the Management Program are approved by the Australian Government.

### Output Group: Natural Resources

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

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

Outcomes of this Output Group are sustainable use and protection of natural resources through planning, management and monitoring, and mitigation of threats arising from natural processes or human activities.

This Output Group is attributed with \$47.6 million of the Department’s \$192.4 million budget.

There are two Outputs within this Output Group:

- Land Management; and
- Water Management.

### Output: Land Management

This Output assesses, manages, and monitors the Territory’s landscapes and rangelands and mitigates threats from weeds and fire to support sustainable development of the Territory.

#### Performance Measures: Land Management – Bushfires

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Actual	11–12 Estimate	11–12 Actual	12–13 Budget
Fire plans developed <sup>1</sup>	115	110	115	100	100 <sup>2</sup>	100
Active brigade volunteers <sup>3</sup>	433	520	500	530	520 <sup>4</sup>	600
Proportion of training courses accredited to national standards <sup>5</sup>	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Property plans developed prior to fire season commencement (properties greater than 8 hectares) <sup>6</sup>	80%	90%	50%	80%	80%	80%

#### Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Fire plans document the history of fire on a property (public land) and set out future actions to mitigate wildfire.
2. A new strategy to consolidate sub-region and property plans was undertaken, reducing the total number of fire plans from previous years.
3. Active brigade volunteers are paid-up members of the 22 incorporated Volunteer Bushfire Brigades in the Northern Territory.
4. Numbers of volunteers have decreased in some areas due to changing demographics.
5. While most training is accredited, some non-brigade volunteers seek national best practice instruction in safe application of fire management tailored to specific needs only.

6. Fire plans are developed in conjunction with the landholder and the Agency's Bushfires NT with most completed before the official start of the fire season. Planning for a Central Australia fire season in 2011 identified a lack of completed plans due to an extended period without any fires.

### **Key Achievements in 2011–12: Land Management – Bushfires**

1. Managed the Agency's response to the worst fire season in Central Australia for more than 10 years with no significant injuries to volunteers, staff or community.
2. Responded to more than 80 wildfires in the Darwin Rural Area with no significant injuries to volunteers, staff or community.
3. Expanded the efforts for managing the dangerous fire risk in Central Australia for the coming seasons through the establishment of closer relationships with Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Services and Land Councils to jointly promote fire management responsibility, through regular operational meetings.

### **Challenges in 2011–12: Land Management – Bushfires**

1. Progression of long term relationships was slowed by the Agency's resources committed to the intense fire season in both Top End and Central Australia, which limited opportunities for strategic discussion.
2. Promoting further volunteer memberships is affected by available time outside the active fire season.

### **Future Priorities in 2012–13: Land Management – Bushfires**

1. Develop a formal Memorandum of Understanding with Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services in relation to strategic fire management in rural and remote areas.
2. Continue to work on a new community approach to increase an uptake of fire management responsibility by landholders including community events for fire planning.
3. Diversify Volunteer Brigade membership to increase resilience and succession planning by engaging with younger rural people.
4. Facilitate the expansion of professional approaches to fire management among rural and remote communities as a prerequisite for a roll out of greenhouse gas abatement projects.



**Performance Measures: Land Management – Weeds**

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Actual	11–12 Estimate	11–12 Actual	12–13 Budget
Plans declared in accordance with Section 10 of the <i>Weed Management Act</i> <sup>7</sup>	0	0	3	3	4 <sup>8</sup>	2
Known land actively managing weed species <sup>9</sup>	17%	17%	23%	21%	23% <sup>10</sup>	22%
Indigenous Ranger groups participating in weed management programs	24	28	25	24	30 <sup>11</sup>	26
Regional catchment or subcatchment weed strategies/plans developed	0	0	2	2	0 <sup>12</sup>	2

**Explanatory Notes to the Table**

7. Refers to the number of Weed Management Plans declared in accordance with Section 10 of the *Weeds Management Act 2001*.
8. Weed management plans declared in 2011–12 were:
  - *Acacia nilotica* (prickly acacia) in March 2012;
  - *Prosopis spp* (mesquite) in March 2012;
  - *Ziziphus mauritiana* (chinee apple) in March 2012; and
  - *Cabomba caroliniana* (cabomba) in August 2011.
9. Refers to the portion of the Northern Territory with known weed management activity as identified through the Agency’s involvement in weed management planning.
10. The Agency was involved, through consultation, in the Kakadu National Park Weeds Management Plan, leading to an increase in the total area of weed management over the estimated value.
11. Agency staff had greater than anticipated involvement with ranger groups in Darwin and Alice Springs regions, largely in response to the spread of grassy weeds into previously clean areas such as eastern Arnhem land.

**Indigenous Ranger groups**

Top End Region:

1. Thamarrurr Rangers
2. Asyrikarrak Kirim Rangers
3. Wudikupildyerr Land Management
4. Malak Malak Rangers
5. Ngatpuk Rangers
6. Acacia Larrakia Rangers
7. Larrakia Rangers
8. Amangal Rangers
9. Tiwi Rangers
10. Adjumarllarl Rangers
11. Djelk Rangers
12. Warddeneken Land Management
13. Gurruwiling Rangers
14. Murwangi Rangers New
15. Gumurr Marthakal Rangers
16. Crocodile Island Rangers
17. Dhimurru Aboriginal Land Management
18. Laynhapuy Rangers
19. Garngi Rangers
20. Belyuen Land Management

Katherine Region:

21. Wagiman Rangers
22. Timber Creek Rangers
23. Mangarrayi Rangers
24. li-Anthawirriyarra Sea Rangers
25. Borroloola Rangers
26. Lajamanu Rangers

Tennant Creek Region:

27. Tennant Creek Central Land Council Rangers
28. Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation

Alice Springs Region:

29. Tjuwampa Rangers

30. Santa Theresa Rangers

12. No regional strategies were completed in 2011–12 despite work having commenced on these strategies. Priority was instead given to finalising weed management plans for the highest risk weed species.

### Key Achievements in 2011–12: Land Management – Weeds

1. Declared four statutory Weed Management Plans under Section 10 of the *Weeds Management Act 2001*: *Acacia nilotica* (prickly acacia), *Prosopis spp* (mesquite), *Ziziphus mauritiana* (chinee apple) and *Cabomba caroliniana* (cabomba).
2. Coordinated control of an incursion of the serious weed water mimosa (*Neptunia plena*) at Nhulunbuy, in collaboration with Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited, Dhimurru Rangers and private contractors, and conducted an extensive public education campaign.
3. Coordinated bellyache bush management in collaboration with stakeholders in the upper Daly River catchment. Consultation and engagement with stakeholders led to two successful collaborative funding applications to the Biodiversity fund (\$1M) and Caring For Our Country (\$80 000), and commencement of development of a regional management strategy.
4. Doubled landholder involvement in the Darwin Harbour catchment gamba grass management program, with 578 persons utilising the Agency's free herbicide assistance program to control or eradicate the weed.
5. Continued the successful *Cabomba caroliniana* (cabomba) eradication and surveillance program in the Darwin River Catchment, with no cabomba being identified.
6. Developed a wide range of community education materials for landholders to identify, control and eradicate weeds on their property.

### Challenges in 2011–12: Land Management – Weeds

1. Ensuring compliance of land owners and managers with weed management legislation remains challenging. Significant effort remains necessary to engage with major land holders and managers, including corporations and agencies in communicating their legislative obligations and responsibilities.
2. Competing priorities meant that no regional weed management strategies were completed, as developing species weed management plans was given greater priority than regional weed management strategies. Significant work was undertaken to develop the regional weed strategies. Further regional consultation was also deemed necessary to reach consensus on the highest priority weed species. This consultation and development process is being guided by the Weed Risk Management System.
3. Competing priorities delayed the review of the *Weeds Management Act*. Weed Risk Management System Results were analysed on a regional basis to inform proposed amendments to weed declaration classes, as part of the review of the *Weeds Management Act*. The declaration status of individual weeds was also reviewed. Public consultation on these proposed amendments has commenced with further work on the review of the *Act* to occur in 2012–13.

### Future Priorities in 2012–13: Land Management – Weeds

1. Develop and implement an Agency compliance and enforcement plan to guide increased on ground compliance and enforcement activities.
2. Finalise the revision of declared plants list and submit recommendations for amendments to the *Weeds Management Act*.
3. Develop regional weed management strategies for the Top End, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs regions identifying priority species and actions for each region.

**Performance Measures: Land Management – Native Vegetation**

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Actual	11–12 Estimate	11–12 Actual	12–13 Budget
Clearing applications received and processed	25	23	13	16	10 <sup>13</sup>	20
Appeals received	2	0	0	0	0 <sup>14</sup>	0
Clearing applications received for which supplementary information is required <sup>15</sup>	25%	35%	15%	30%	71% <sup>16</sup>	30%
Legislative timeframes met <sup>17</sup>	50%	20%	50%	40%	25% <sup>18</sup>	40%

**Explanatory Notes to the Table**

13. Ten land clearing applications were received by the Agency for processing: seven on unzoned freehold land, one on a pastoral lease and two on zoned land. Impacts of current economic conditions and trade arrangements in the agricultural industry have resulted in a reduction in applications to clear native vegetation compared to estimates. Applications received and processed are as follows:

**Pastoral**

- 1. Aileron Pastoral Station.

**Zoned**

- 2. Doug McBean; and
- 3. Van Be Nguyen.

**Unzoned**

- 4. Northern Territory Government’s Department of Construction and Infrastructure;
- 5. Len Baker;
- 6. Sustainable Timberland Australia Ltd;
- 7. Midway Station;
- 8. Ceres Downs;

- 9. Northern Territory Government’s Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport; and
- 10. Simon Crestale.
- 14. No appeals of determinations were lodged in 2011–12.
- 15. Supplementary information refers to when additional information is officially requested under the *Planning Act* (the *Act*) by the Agency as the application fails to comply with section 46(3) of the *Act*.
- 16. Actual requests for supplementary information were higher than estimated as applicants did not provide accurate site descriptions or provided inadequate data.
- 17. Number of applications that are determined within the statutory 12 week period, under the *Planning Act*.
- 18. Timeframes are not always met due to inconsistencies regularly being identified between applications and on-site conditions and/or risks involved in developing a site. This requires investigation to clarify risks and applicants to develop mitigation strategies.

**Key Achievements in 2011–12: Land Management – Native Vegetation**

- 1. Reviewed current land cover and condition monitoring methods, including the mapping of native vegetation extent across the Northern Territory. The selected methodology is based upon the Queensland Statewide Landcover and Tree Survey (SLATS) program, which will enable contribution to national reporting systems.
- 2. Finalised drafting of amendments to the *Pastoral Land Act*.

### Challenges in 2011–12: Land Management – Native Vegetation

1. Delays in implementing the reviewed methodology for land cover and condition monitoring occurred due to the diverse landscapes of the Northern Territory and the requirement for extensive field work for data validation.

### Future Priorities in 2012–13: Land Management – Native Vegetation

1. Develop methods to capture landscape and land cover change using integration of satellite and ground data. Establishing the current level of native vegetation is a key requirement for cascade assessment and compliance.
2. Develop codes and regulations required to support clearing of land across the NT.
3. Continue the implementation and trialling of Queensland State-wide Land-Cover and Tree Survey (SLATS) methodology to the Northern Territory environment to enable reporting of land cover change using integration of satellite and on-ground data. The size of the Territory, remoteness, extreme climatic conditions and the capacity of the technical team, means implementation will need to be staged over several years to ensure data integrity.

### Performance Measures: Land Management – Land Capability

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Actual	11–12 Estimate	11–12 Actual	12–13 Budget
Land development proposals assessed <sup>19</sup>	224	280	174	185	211 <sup>20</sup>	185
Monitoring sites assessed within timeframe	65%	57%	48%	40%	14% <sup>21</sup>	40%

#### Explanatory Notes to the Table

19. Land development proposals assessed is determined by the number of applications received per year.
20. The number of development proposals assessed was more than estimated due to the Agency assessing large developments such as INPEX, new suburbs of Palmerston and the Doug Owston Correctional Facility, which included multiple development proposals.
21. The number of site assessments completed within timeframe was less than estimated due to extreme seasonal conditions including an extended Wet season and prolonged fire season.

### Key Achievements in 2011–12: Land Management – Land Capability

1. Finalised city of Weddell landscape survey and reported on land capability, vegetation and flora, to facilitate planning of Weddell.
2. Published the report *Identification of Potential Land for Long-term Sustainable Food Production, Stage 1 Identification of Soil and Water Resources* in conjunction with the Northern Territory Government Department of Resources. The report was developed in response to the *Territory 2030* Strategic Plan (Economic Sustainability – Objective 3: growing local industry) and is available on the Agency’s website.
3. Increased information about land suitability, vegetation and soil accessible to the public, with maps and reports now readily available on the Agency’s website.

**Challenges in 2011–12: Land Management – Land Capability**

1. Upgrading information to digital format and delivering this information to the public in an accessible and user friendly manner is resource intensive. Information is currently held in a variety of formats including point data, hard copy field notes and raster images.
2. Prevailing extreme weather conditions affected the number of site assessments able to be completed.

**Future Priorities in 2012–13: Land Management – Land Capability**

1. Continue development of codes, guidelines and regulations required for the implementation of the amendments to the *Pastoral Land Act*.
2. Develop databases for development application and native vegetation clearing data.

### Output: Water Management

This Output assesses and manages Territory water resources, including water quality monitoring and flood forecasting.

#### Performance Measures: Water Management – Flood Forecasting

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Actual	11–12 Estimate	11–12 Actual	12–13 Budget
New gauging station installations (river height and rainfall)	1	2	0	1	1 <sup>1</sup>	1
Proportion of days where data is available	95%	96%	87%	85%	95% <sup>2</sup>	80%
Services delivered within agreed timeframes	96%	97%	87%	80%	85% <sup>3</sup>	80%

#### Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. An historic gauging station was resurrected on the Daly River at Gourley, approximately 200 kilometres south of Darwin, to provide early flood warning to Nauiyu Community and enable flood response plans to be initiated in a timely manner.
2. Data systems performed better than estimated as a result of improved and new infrastructure.
3. Real time data for flood forecasting was delivered within agreed timeframes more frequently than expected.

#### Key Achievements in 2011–12: Water Management – Flood Forecasting

1. Recorded flood heights, extents and duration for Rapid Creek in Darwin, Edith River north of Katherine, McArthur River south of Borroloola and Darwin River Dam south of Darwin.
2. Commenced investigation on the impact of coastal inundation due to storm surge in the Darwin Harbour region, including Blackmore and Elizabeth Rivers.

3. Completed floodplain modelling and mapping for Borroloola, floodplain modelling for Alice Springs and the flood impact study for Kilgariff, Alice Springs.
4. Commenced a flood study for the city of Weddell, south of Darwin.
5. Issued seven flood forecast advices to Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services with moderate to high reliability in flow height prediction for the Todd River, Alice Springs.
6. Through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) transferred the Agency’s flood forecasting function for Katherine, Beswick, Adelaide River Town, Nauiyu, and communities in Victoria River catchment to BOM. BOM will continue to provide those functions from 2011–12 onwards, except for flash flood systems such as Alice Springs.
7. Provided near real time data to the public, BOM and the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services on river levels and rainfalls and during major flood events through the Agency’s website.
8. Maintained high standards for the ongoing provision of flood alerts on a continuous automatic monitoring basis to the Northern Territory Government’s Department of Construction and Infrastructure and introduced early flood alerts for Rapid Creek in Darwin to assist Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services.

#### Challenges in 2011–12: Water Management – Flood Forecasting

1. Measurement of flood flows and data collection was restricted by access difficulties caused by the 2011–12 Wet season. However, a high level of performance in the measurement of flood flows and collection of flood data to enhance flood prediction and warning was achieved.

### Future Priorities in 2012–13: Water Management – Flood Forecasting

1. Undertake storm surge mapping for communities in Gulf of Carpentaria: Yirrkala, Banyala, Milyakburra, Alyangula, Umbakumba, Numbulwar, Bing Bong Loading Facility and King Ash Bay.
2. Undertake storm surge studies for north and west coastal communities: Wadeye, Wurrumiyanga, Pirlangimbi, Millikapiti, Minjilang, Waruwi, Maningrida, Millingimbi and Galiwinku.
3. Complete floodplain modelling and mapping for: Alice Springs; Rapid Creek; Blackmore River and Elizabeth River.
4. Update Darwin storm surge inundation mapping.
5. Develop a Service Level Agreement with the Bureau of Meteorology, defining technical support and level of service related to data capturing and transmission that can be maintained by the Agency for flood forecasting.

### Performance Measures: Water Management – Surface and Groundwater

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Actual	11–12 Estimate	11–12 Actual	12–13 Budget
Operational rig days in the field <sup>4</sup>	210	200	151	175	188 <sup>5</sup>	190
New water allocation plans declared	0	1	0	2	1 <sup>6</sup>	2 <sup>7</sup>
Licences and permits issued	341	487	250	200	220 <sup>8</sup>	200
Time series data collected at agreed standards <sup>9</sup>	85%	90%	90%	80%	80%	90%
Proportion of unscheduled maintenance of drilling rigs	4%	5%	3%	10%	3% <sup>10</sup>	10%
Level of compliance to water allocation plans	95%	95%	95%	90%	90%	80% <sup>11</sup>
Services delivered within agreed timeframes	85%	85%	80%	80%	85% <sup>12</sup>	75%

#### Explanatory Notes to the Table

4. Days of on-site drilling by the Agency’s two drilling rigs, out of a possible 260 days, based on a five day working week.
5. The number of operational rig days in the field was higher than estimated as the result of rescheduling work to Central Australia during the extended Top End Wet season.
6. The Western Davenport Water Allocation Plan was declared in 2011. It was anticipated that the Mataranka Water Allocation Plan would be declared during this period however, due to extended community consultation this was not achieved. It is envisaged the plan will be declared in 2012–13.

7. The following Water Allocation Plans and water resource strategy are expected to be declared and/or released in 2012–13:
  1. Great Artesian Basin;
  2. Mataranka/Tindall;
  3. Ooloo; and
  4. *Tiwi Islands Water Resource Strategy*.
8. The number of licences and permits is difficult to estimate. Twenty extra permits and licences were issued due to increased water bore drilling activity.
9. Draft national standards have been prepared by the Bureau of Meteorology for the collection of time series data measuring river level and flow, as well as groundwater level data.
10. The proportion of unscheduled maintenance was lower than estimated due to extra maintenance being able to be conducted in wet periods.
11. As the number of declared Water Allocation Plans increases, the overall level of compliance declines (temporarily) while new regulatory arrangements are taken up by water users.
12. Services delivered under the *Water Act*, such as the issue of permits and licenses, continue to be developed and improved.

### Key Achievements in 2011–12: Water Management – Surface and Groundwater

1. Declared the Western Davenport Water Allocation Plan, in the Barkly region, in November 2011. The development of the Plan provides security for water users and defines the framework which will enable developments that depend on groundwater to proceed in a sustainable manner.
2. Completed a study of the Koolpinyah Dolomite aquifer in Darwin Rural Area in November 2011. This work has provided greater understanding of the groundwater system, explained why the major spring discharges occur in the region and identified potential risks to the water resource.
3. Completed a study of the Major Spring Systems fed by the Ooloo Dolostone aquifer in the Daly Basin 200 kilometres south of Darwin in November 2011. This work identified the location of major springs in the Ooloo Dolostone aquifer, determined the factors influencing their occurrence and examined potential risks to water quality. The outcomes of this study have been used to inform the development of the Ooloo Aquifer Water Allocation Plan.
4. Completed a study of the hydrogeology of the Northern Territory Portion of the Great Artesian Basin (GAB), which contributed to a national consortium project as well as providing the underpinning technical information in relation to the Northern Territory GAB Water Allocation Plan. The project conclusively proved that a major source of recharge to the western margin of the GAB is through the bed of the Finke River and provided evidence of similar recharge through other large regional river systems.
5. Completed the Northern Territory study of palaeovalley (ancient buried valley) systems which contributed to a national consortium project. This study has enabled the mapping of systems underlying the Ti Tree Water Allocation Plan area and the region between Papunya and Lake Mackay, and provided evidence of significant resources of good to marginal quality groundwater.
6. Developed the Water Information Management System (WIMS) as a decision support tool to manage Agency assessment, monitoring and planning functions. WIMS identifies which monitoring sites relate to various assessment programs, which in turn support the Agency's multiple water management activities. WIMS is a fundamental tool for guiding the delivery of operations to meet Agency priorities.
7. Conducted free private land holder's bore water sampling in the Darwin Rural Area through to the Adelaide River Township, with more than 1 200 samples tested over a six week period. Sampling was to determine arsenic and other heavy metal levels in private bores.



8. Completed water quality surveys to update information in the Water Allocation Planning (WAP) areas only. These areas included the Western Davenport and Alice Springs areas, where groundwater isn't used for drinking and communities use rainwater tank supplies for drinking water.

### Challenges in 2011–12: Water Management – Surface and Groundwater

1. Declaration of the Mataranka, Ooloo and Great Artesian Basin Water Allocation Plans did not occur due to extended community consultation.
2. Release of the *Tiwi Islands Water Resource Strategy* did not occur due to extended community and stakeholder consultation.
3. Amendments were drafted to the *Water Act* to reach alignment with the National Water Initiative. This included reform of water planning and allocation provisions although consultation to enable final preparation of Bill to amend the *Act* will be finalised in 2012–13.

### Future Priorities in 2012–13: Water Management – Surface and Groundwater

1. Declare three new Water Allocation Plans:
  1. Mataranka/Tindall;
  2. Great Artesian Basin; and
  3. Ooloo.
2. Release the *Tiwi Islands Water Resource Strategy*.
3. Progress work necessary to align the *Water Act* with the outcomes of the National Water Initiative.

### Performance Measures: Water Management – Aquatic Ecosystem Health

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Actual	11–12 Estimate	11–12 Actual	12–13 Budget
Sites monitored in Darwin Harbour	28	45	60	61	61 <sup>13</sup>	61
Report cards developed on time	N/A <sup>14</sup>	100%	100%	100%	100% <sup>15</sup>	100%

### Explanatory Notes to the Table

13. In 2011–12, the following 61 sites were monitored:
  - Ten sites in central Darwin Harbour;
  - Eight sites at East Arm and Myrmidon Creek, on the more developed eastern side of the Harbour;
  - Four sites near West Arm and Woods Inlet, on the less developed western side of the Harbour;
  - Six sites in the Elizabeth River estuary, downstream of the city of Weddell;
  - Twelve sites in the Blackmore River estuary, downstream of Berry Springs and Darwin River Dam and south of Middle Arm;
  - Five sites in Buffalo Creek and Shoal Bay, the major bay in the north east of Darwin Harbour;
  - Twelve beach sites, including Vestey's Beach; Nightcliff Beach; Rapid Creek Beach; Little Mindil Beach; Mindil Beach; East Point Reserve; Casuarina Beach; Cullen Bay Beach; Lee Point Beach; Lameroo Beach; Mandorah Beach; and Wagait Beach; and
  - Four tidal creek sites, including Vestey's Creek; Rapid Creek; Mindil Creek, and Little Mindil Creek.
14. Report Cards were not produced in 2008. The inaugural Report Cards were produced in 2009–10.

15. The 2011 Darwin Harbour Region Report Cards were released in December 2011 and included information about the following regions:

- Darwin Harbour beaches;
- Darwin Harbour;
- Darwin-Palmerston and estuary;
- Elizabeth River and estuary;
- Blackmore River and estuary;
- Shoal Bay and Buffalo Creek; and
- West Arm, Woods Inlet and Rapid Creek.

### Key Achievements in 2011–12: Water Management – Aquatic Ecosystem Health

1. Initiated high priority monitoring and research programs in Darwin Harbour and facilitated the development of the Darwin Harbour Integrated Monitoring and Research Program with key stakeholders, to improve understanding of the health of Darwin Harbour and support sound environmental planning and decision making. Monitoring and research information collected was reported through the Darwin Harbour Region Report Cards.
2. Produced a suite of Darwin Harbour Region Report Cards, to provide snapshots of the health of aquatic ecosystems across the Harbour and its catchment. The 2011 Report Cards showed that Darwin Harbour is predominantly in excellent condition.
3. Provided water quality training to Larrakia Sea Rangers in preparation for their active participation and assistance in Darwin Harbour monitoring.
4. Finalised an assessment of the health of rivers and streams in the Daly River catchment and progressed the development of a river health monitoring plan. This information will assist the work of the Daly River Management Advisory Committee in supporting the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources within the Daly River region.

### Challenges in 2011–12: Water Management – Aquatic Ecosystem Health

1. Monitoring and sampling was restricted on occasion by inaccessibility of sites due to tidal and seasonal weather conditions.

### Future Priorities in 2012–13: Water Management – Aquatic Ecosystem Health

1. Implement high priority monitoring and research programs in Darwin Harbour and continue to facilitate the Darwin Harbour Integrated Monitoring and Research Program.
2. Develop a program to improve our understanding and knowledge of inland aquatic ecosystems to guide their sustainable management.
3. Complete the Water Quality Protection Plan for Darwin Harbour including the development of a Decision Support System to help assess the relative impact of development in the catchment and to inform future planning and management.

### Output Group: Environment and Heritage

This Output Group is responsible for the effective protection of the environment, including cultural and heritage assets, through identification and mitigation of risks from natural processes and human activities.

This Output Group also provides advice to Government, industry and the community in relation to environmental protection and sustainability issues. It also develops and implements strategic policy to guide society towards environmentally sustainable practices and behaviour.

The Heritage Conservation outcomes are protection of the community's interest in cultural and heritage assets and helping the community, business and government to care for and make best use of these assets.

This Output Group is attributed with \$10.8 million of the Department's \$192.4 million budget.

There are two Outputs within this Output Group:

- Environment and Sustainability; and
- Heritage Conservation.

### Output: Environment and Sustainability

Promote sustainable practices and assesses and regulates environmental impacts associated with development.

#### Performance Measures: Environment and Sustainability

Key Deliverables	08-09 Actual	09-10 Actual	10-11 Actual	11-12 Estimate	11-12 Actual	12-13 Budget
Notices of Intent assessed <sup>1</sup>	104	47	44	55	46 <sup>2</sup>	55 <sup>3</sup>
Assessment guidelines issued for development proposals <sup>4</sup>	6	6	1	6	5 <sup>5</sup>	6
Environmental assessment reports to Minister	0	2	1	4	3 <sup>6</sup>	8 <sup>7</sup>
Licences and approvals administered	68	106	164	130	95 <sup>8</sup>	160 <sup>9</sup>
Compliance audits conducted	NA	9	26	60	56 <sup>10</sup>	70 <sup>11</sup>
Responses to pollution incidences	161	136	286	180	298 <sup>12</sup>	200
Enforcement action <sup>13</sup>	0	3	4	5	6 <sup>14</sup>	10 <sup>15</sup>
Grants to assist community, industry and local government to promote and implement sustainable practices	\$0.95M	\$1.02M	\$0.95M	\$1.3M	\$1.3M <sup>16</sup>	\$1.1M <sup>17</sup>
Develop and implement key environmental initiatives including regulatory reform	5	6	10	11	11 <sup>18</sup>	12

#### Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. A Notice of Intent is the first formal notification from a proponent regarding a proposed development and it informs a decision on whether further assessment is required under the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

2. There were fewer Notices of Intent assessed in 2011–12 than anticipated. The number of proposals assessed as a Notice of Intent is driven by the number and type of development proposals submitted by proponents within any given year and is therefore difficult to accurately predict.

Notice of Intents assessed in 2011–12:

1. Mt Todd Gold Project, Vista Gold Australia Pty Ltd
  2. Tipperary Station clearing, Tipperary Group of Stations
  3. Douglas Station clearing, Tipperary Group of Stations
  4. McKinlay Project quarry, Allan King & Sons Pty Ltd
  5. Harts Range Garnet Project, Australian Abrasive Minerals Pty Ltd
  6. Onshore Seismic Exploration Beetaloo Basin, Hess Australia (Beetaloo) Pty Limited
  7. Pond 6 South Wall Raise – Alcan Gove, Alcan Gove Pty Ltd
  8. Lajamanu Airstrip Veg Clearing, Dept of Construction and Infrastructure
  9. Variation to Palm Valley to Alice Springs Pipeline, APA Group
  10. Toro Energy Uranium Transport, Toro Energy
  11. Mega Lake Maitland Uranium Transport to Darwin, Mega Lake Maitland Pty Ltd
  12. Minemakers Newcastle Waters Phosphate Exploration, Minemakers Limited
  13. Emma 2D Seismic Survey, PetroFrontier (Australia) Pty Ltd
  14. Onshore Seismic Survey, Armour Energy
  15. Development Application, Subdivision, Dept of Lands and Planning
  16. Subdivision to create 3 lots, Michael Cooper
  17. Cullen Bay Marina Replacement Unit Plan, Cullen Bay 94/62 Body Corporate
  18. Development assessment mixed use development, George Savvas
  19. Brocks Ck – Rising Tide Redev, Crocodile Gold Australia Operations Pty Ltd
  20. Quorn NW tailing storage facility - Granites Gold, Newmont Tanami Pty Ltd
  21. Fog Bay Road upgrade Road to Dundee Beach, Dept of Construction and Infrastructure
  22. Central Tanami Project, Tanami Gold NL
  23. Extension or Replacement of East Point Outfall, Power Water Corporation
  24. Warrego tailings rehab project, Aard Metals Limited
  25. Inpex Accommodation Village, Inpex Australia Operations Pty Ltd
  26. Molyhil Tungsten Molybdenum Project, Thor Mining PLC
  27. AACo Meat Processing Facility, Australian Agricultural Company
  28. Western Desert Resources Ltd - Roper Bar Iron Ore, Western Desert Resources
  29. Proposed City of Weddell, Dept of Lands and Planning
  30. Mentabie Stn Veg Clearing, Sustainable Timberlands Australia
  31. Ludmilla Creek Reinstatement, Dept of Lands and Planning
  32. Grove Hill Quarry - MMP Granite Quarry THE Mining Pty Ltd
  33. Peko Rehabilitation Project, Peko Rehabilitation Project Pty Ltd
  34. Cullen Bay Fuel Tank Replacement, Dept of Lands and Planning
  35. Maningrida Outfall Duplication and Extension, Power Water Corporation
  36. Additions to General Industry - East Arm, Northern Cement Ltd
  37. Brocks Ck-Rising Tide Redevelopment Stage 2, Crocodile Gold Australia Operations Pty Ltd
  38. Road upgrades, Blaydin Point Channel Island Rd/ Wickham Point Road, Dept of Lands and Planning
  39. The Heights 103 lot subdivision, Elton Consulting
  40. Midway Stn Veg clearing, Riveren Nominees
  41. Surprise 3D seismic survey, Central Petroleum Limited
  42. Wadeye Gas fired power station and utilities corridor, Power Water Corporation
  43. Blaydin Point Extractive Minerals Area, JKC Australia LNG Pty Ltd
  44. Rover 1 Exploration Decline Project, Castile Resources Pty Ltd (Westgold Resources Ltd)
  45. Howard West Quarry, DAC Enterprises Pty Ltd
  46. Ooloo Farm Land Clearing Application, Ooloo Farm Management
3. An increase in Notices of Intent is expected in 2012–13 compared to 2011–12 due to anticipated increases in development activities and activities associated with major projects.

4. Under the *Environmental Assessment Act*, when a project is determined to require environmental impact assessment at the level of Public Environmental Report (PER) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), guidelines are issued by the Minister to the proponent to inform the preparation of the PER or EIS.

5. Assessment Guidelines issued in 2011–12:

1. McArthur River Mine Phase 3
2. Clarence Strait Tidal Energy Project
3. Mt Todd Gold Project
4. AACo Meat Processing Facility
5. Western Desert Resources (Roper Bar Iron Ore Project)

The number of Assessment Guidelines issued is difficult to predict as it is driven by the number and type of development proposals submitted by proponents within any given year and can be impacted by projects being varied or withdrawn by proponents prior to guidelines being finalised.

6. Environmental assessment reports provided to the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage in 2011–12:

1. BHP Olympic Dam Expansion (NT Transport Option)
2. East Arm Expansion Project
3. AACO Meat Processing Facility

One anticipated assessment report was not finalised as further information is required from the proponent for the preparation of the report.

7. A higher number of environmental assessment reports are expected in 2012–13, with anticipated reports for:

1. McArthur River Mine – Phase 3 Development Project
2. Western Desert Resources Limited – Roper Bar Iron Ore Project
3. Power and Water Corporation – East Point Rising Main
4. Power and Water Corporation – East Point Ocean Outfall
5. Australian Ilmenite Resources – Sil 80 Ilmenite Project

6. Vista Gold – Mt Todd Gold Project

7. Department of Lands and Planning – City of Weddell

8. Sherwin Iron Ltd – Hodgson Downs Iron Ore Project

9. Arafura Resources – Nolans Bore Mine Project

8. There were fewer licences and approvals administered under the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act* and the *Water Act* for 2011–12 than anticipated.

The 2011–12 estimate was based on an anticipated increase in licences to be issued under the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act* due to an enhanced licensing and compliance regime. Public consultation and required legislative amendments have not been finalised.

9. The anticipated increase in the number of licences and approvals for 2012–13 is due to the progression of initiatives regarding the licensing of sewage treatment plants and landfills in remote areas, and the enhanced licensing and compliance regime.

10. Compliance audits refers to desktop audits, site inspections, site audits and compliance checks undertaken to ensure compliance with the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act*, the *Water Act* and the *Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Act*.

There were fewer audits than anticipated in 2011–12 due to the proposed enhanced licensing and compliance regime under the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act* not commencing during 2011–12.

11. There is an anticipated increase in regulated activities in 2012–13 under the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act* and the *Water Act* due to increases in licences to be issued, and new compliance requirements related to the new *Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Act*.

12. This figure is based on telephone calls received to the Pollution Response Line. The number of calls is driven by pollution issues within any given year and is therefore difficult to accurately predict.

13. Enforcement action includes prosecutions, infringements, pollution abatement notices and other legal instruments issued under the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act*, *Water Act* and *Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Act*.

14. In 2011–12 six enforcement actions were taken which included:

- Prosecution of Darwin Port Corporation for a breach of Section 83(5), environmental nuisance, of the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act*.
- Complaint lodged against Rapid Form Systems Pty Ltd for alleged breaches of Section 83(5), environmental nuisance, of the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act*.
- Two infringement notices for alleged breaches of Section 83(5), environmental nuisance, of the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act* were issued to Rapid Form Systems Pty Ltd.
- Two directions pursuant to the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act* from Authorised Officers to Genesee and Wyoming Australia in relation to the clean up of debris related to the Edith River train derailment incident.

15. There is an anticipated increase in the number of enforcement actions for 2012–13 due to an enhanced focus on environmental enforcement, and an increase in regulated activities and capacity.

16. Grants distributed in 2011–12 totalled \$1 328 000 and were provided to the following programs:

Program	Grants \$
EnvironmeNT Grants Program*	\$683 000
Cool Communities	\$100 000
Container Deposit Scheme Infrastructure Grants	\$300 000
Energy Smart Rebate	\$45 000
Community Climate Change Grants	\$200 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1 328 000</b>

\*This figure includes \$21 000 of parameters.

17. Grants will decrease in 2012–13 due to the Container Deposit Scheme Infrastructure Grants being offered in 2011–12.

Grants budget for 2012–13 is \$1 070 000, which includes:

Program	Grants \$
EnvironmeNT Grants Program*	\$670 000
Cool Communities	\$150 000
Energy Smart Rebate	\$50 000
Community Climate Change grants	\$200 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1 070 000</b>

\*This figure includes \$39 000 of parameters.

18. Key environmental initiatives were:

1. Container Deposit Scheme – legislative assent / implementation;
2. Plastic Bag Ban – legislative assent / implementation;
3. Northern Territory Climate Change Adaptation Plan;
4. EnvironmeNT grants;
5. *Environmental Assessment Act* review;
6. *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act* review;
7. Integrated Monitoring and Research Program;
8. Darwin Harbour Strategy;
9. Ambient Air Quality – stations establishment;
10. Energy Smart Rebate Program; and
11. Northern Territory Waste Strategy.

### Key Achievements in 2011–12: Environment and Sustainability

1. Coordinated a Whole of Government steering group for the development of a Northern Territory Waste Strategy. A draft for community consultation is being finalised.
2. Installed the second air quality monitoring station at the Bureau of Meteorology site in Winnellie, an obligation under the Ambient Air Quality National Environment Protection Measure.
3. Implemented the Northern Territory Container Deposit Scheme from 3 January 2012. Nearly eight million containers were returned to collection depots in the first quarter of operation, with collection depots operating in major centres in the Territory and some remote locations including Finke, south of Alice Springs. More collection depots are expected to open across the Territory in 2012–13.
4. Implemented the Plastic Bag Ban of single use, non-biodegradable plastic bags from 1 September 2011.
5. Prepared a draft Climate Change Adaptation Plan, which was a requirement under the Northern Territory *Climate Change Policy*.
6. Provided \$1.33M in grants and rebates for community environmental management in the Territory. All 2011–12 Grant recipients are listed in the Appendixes on page 227.
7. Established an Interim Management Committee, comprised of government, industry, community and research organisations, to guide development of the Darwin Harbour Integrated Monitoring and Research Program.
8. Continued to re-draft the Environmental Impact Assessment legislation in response to the Environment Protection Authority's review of environmental impact assessment in the Northern Territory, taking into consideration national reforms.
9. Continued to progress the reform of the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act* to establish an environmental licensing regime for high risk activities and amendments to offence, and duty to notify, provisions.
10. Coordinated and issued approvals for relevant components of the Ichthys Gas Field Development Project (INPEX). An Environment Protection Approval for the land based component of the project has been issued and a further Approval for the dredging component is being developed.
11. Engaged with representatives from the Territory Government and local governments to draft a stormwater strategy for the Darwin region.
12. Provided \$221 000 in Container Deposit Scheme Infrastructure Grants to assist businesses or organisations considering establishing Collection Depots or Collection Points in regional and remote locations throughout the Territory.
13. Provided \$210 000 in Cash for Containers School Fundraising Grants to 75 schools across the Territory to purchase a 7' x 4' caged trailer including signage.

### Challenges in 2011–12: Environment and Sustainability

1. Meeting community expectation on the Container Deposit Scheme rollout in the early stages of its operation.
2. Developing an approach to licensing remote landfills and sewage treatment plants that appropriately addresses environmental concerns, while having regard to legacy issues and costs associated with providing services in remote areas.
3. Meeting community expectation to ensure environmental assessment outcomes are transparent and scientifically rigorous.
4. Meeting community expectations on enforcement actions, with respect to actual and perceived environmental harm.

**Future Priorities in 2012–13: Environment and Sustainability**

1. Increase the number of Collection Depots opening in regional areas across the Territory as part of the Container Deposit Scheme, by working with the waste management industry and other stakeholders.
2. Undertake stakeholder and community consultation on the draft Northern Territory Waste Strategy.
3. Undertake stakeholder and community consultation on the draft Northern Territory Climate Change Adaptation Plan.
4. Progress reform of environmental legislation including the *Environmental Assessment Act* and the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act*.

**Output: Heritage Conservation**

This Output protects and conserves the Territory’s heritage and cultural assets.

**Key Deliverables Output: Heritage Conservation**

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Actual	11–12 Estimate	11–12 Actual	12–13 Budget
Assessment reports to Heritage Advisory Council	15	21	22	16	12 <sup>1</sup>	16
Assistance to privately owned heritage places	\$0.18M	\$0.25M	\$0.24M	\$0.3M	\$0.27M <sup>2</sup>	\$0.3M
Investment to maintain publicly owned heritage places	\$1M	\$0.94M	\$0.51M	\$1M	\$1.4M <sup>3</sup>	\$1M

**Explanatory Notes to the Table**

1. The 12 assessment reports provided to the Heritage Advisory Council for 2011–12 were as follows:
  1. Tempe Downs Homestead, south of Hermannsburg;
  2. WWII sites, Casuarina Coastal Reserve;
  3. John Milner’s Grave – Attack Creek, north of Tennant Creek;
  4. WWII buildings Winnellie Showgrounds, Darwin;
  5. Yarar Rockshelter, near Wadeye;
  6. The Huddersfield shipwreck, Darwin Harbour;
  7. Zuccoli defence position, Palmerston;
  8. Murchison Yards, near Tennant Creek;
  9. Annie Lock’s Camp, south-west of Tennant Creek;
  10. WWII Winnellie Camp, Darwin;
  11. NAR Corridor and One Mile Dam, Darwin; and
  12. AIM Hut, Tennant Creek.



The number of assessment reports completed each year varies, depending on a range of factors including the type and location of a place being assessed and response to other priorities.

2011–12 was a transition period between the *Heritage Conservation Act* and new *Heritage Act*, resulting in the completion of fewer assessment reports.

2. Assistance provided to privately owned heritage places in 2011–12 under the NT Heritage Grants Program was as follows:

Recipient	Project	Grant \$
Alice Springs Town Council	Stuart Memorial Cemetery Restoration	\$11 000
Batchelor Museum Development Association	Conservation Works to Single Women's Quarters ( Building B)	\$10 000
Belyuen Community Government Council	Delissaville Cemetery Project - Stage 2	\$15 000
Catholic Diocese of Darwin	Repairs and Maintenance to Hartley Street, Alice Springs Catholic Church	\$6 000
Centrecorp Aboriginal Investment Corporation	Reinstatement of Water Tanks at 75 Hartley Street, Alice Springs	\$5 000
Consolidated Pastoral Company	Reconstruction of roof on the Newcastle Waters Post Office	\$23 000
Consolidated Pastoral Company	Powell Creek Telegraph Station Repairs	\$11 700
East Arnhem Shire Council	Macassan Sites - Mapping and Imaging Project	\$10 000
Evelyn Schaber	Conservation works to 15 Warburton Street, Alice Springs (Charlie Rye's House)	\$14 200
Friends of Fogg Dam	Humpty Doo Rice Trail - Stage 2	\$10 000
Genealogical Society of Northern Territory Inc	Maranboy Cemetery Marker	\$4 000

Glenn Campbell	Landscape of Heritage	\$3 650
Heritage Alice Springs Inc	Conservation works to Chapman's House, Alice Springs	\$20 000
Historical Society of the Northern Territory	Day Trip to Point Stuart 24 July 2012	\$1 500
Madeleine Walker	Repairs and Maintenance to 14 Railway Terrace, Alice Springs	\$21 200
Megg Kelham	Muldoon's Guest House - A Theatrical Gaol Tour	\$4 000
Megg Kelham	Madness: A crime or a disease? Towards a local history	\$1 200
National Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame	Interpretation of the Old Alice Springs Gaol	\$10 000
National Trust of Australia (Northern Territory)	Fencing - The Stuart Town Gaol, Alice Springs	\$4 800
National Trust of Australia (Northern Territory)	The National Trust Top End Festival	\$6 000
National Trust of Australia (Northern Territory)	2012 Heritage Festival, Alice Springs	\$5 000
National Trust of Australia (Northern Territory)	Repairs and Painting to Burnett House Darwin	\$29 200
National Trust of Australia (Northern Territory)	Interpretation - Alice Springs and Hartley Street School in the 1930	\$5 000
Peter Jones	John McDouall Stuart 150 year commemoration and Aboriginal acknowledgement	\$3 000
Pip McManus	Reconnaissance - Immemorial Exhibition at the Chan Contemporary ArtSpace, Darwin October 2011	\$4 900
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$239 350</b>

\$35 418 worth of additional assistance was provided under the Rates Relief Program as follows:

Recipient	Property Address	Grant \$
Fannie Bay Investments Pty Ltd	22 Smith Street Darwin	\$7 227
Garry Abbott	17 Shepherd Street Darwin	\$2 011
Melissa Rundle	10 Railway Terrace Alice Springs	\$3 633
Madeleine Walker	14 Railway Terrace Alice Springs	\$1 274
Tim Rose	79 Bath Street Alice Springs	\$620
Centrecorp Aboriginal Investment Corporation	75 Hartley Street Alice Springs	\$1 119
Centrecorp Aboriginal Investment Corporation	82 Hartley Street Alice Springs	\$1 120
Angus Mclvor	6 Stuart Terrace Alice Springs	\$4 922
NT Outback Adventure Rentals Pty Ltd	76 Hartley Street Alice Springs	\$3 149
John Greateorex	63 Freshwater Drive Jingili	\$781
Domenico Pecorari	16 Railway Terrace Alice Springs	\$3 821
Ruth Murphy	15 Gorge Road Katherine	\$332
M Giacon and MW Gillam	4 Hele Crescent Ciccone Alice Springs	\$1 588
Gregory Alan Taylor	12 Railway Terrace Alice Springs	\$3 821
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$35 418</b>

3. Investments made to maintain publicly owned heritage places for 2011–12 is the \$1M Conservation Program for Territory Government owned heritage assets. Funding for 2011–12 is shown in the following table:

Place	Project	Grant \$
<b>Darwin Region</b>		
Browns Mart	Replace air conditioning	\$48 150
East Point Turrets	Drainage works	\$100 790
Hughes Airstrip	Reseal 800m of surface	\$87 008
Strauss Airstrip	Clear taxiways and inserts, replace signs, repair aircraft profiles	\$55 826
17 ½ Mile Camp	New paths for visitor walking trails	\$454 676
17 ½ Mile Camp	Clearing around WWII features, interpretative shelter and signage	\$93 511
<b>Tennant Creek Region</b>		
Bonney Well Windmill	Service mill oil boxes	\$1 895
Tennant Creek Telegraph Station.	Install air drains, repair and stabilise stone walls, lime washing	\$329 248
<b>Alice Springs Region</b>		
Owen Springs Homestead	Repair and stabilise stone walls	\$163 405
Alice Springs Telegraph Station	Install air drains, repair termite damage.	\$62 154
Urgent minors etc		\$4 479
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1 401 142</b>

\$406 000 of the 2010–11 Conservation Program was transferred to the 2011–12 Capital Works project for development of the WWII 17 ½ Mile camp site.

### Key Achievements in 2011–12: Heritage Conservation

1. Tabled a new *Heritage Act* in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly in 2011–12. The Legislation was passed on 25 October 2011 and assented to on 15 November 2011 with regulations, policies and procedures developed for the commencement of the new *Heritage Act* in 2012–13.
2. Completed improvement works to the WWII 17½ Mile Camp site and other Defence of Darwin Experience military heritage sites, including East Point and Strauss Airstrip to enhance the overall visitor experience. Works included the installation of new paths, clearing around WWII interpretative shelter and signage valued at \$489 500.
3. Declared seven places as heritage places, as follows:
  1. Rum Jungle Single Women's Quarters, Batchelor, south of Darwin;
  2. 1960's "TJ" series Bedford Truck, Darwin;
  3. North Australia Railway Corridor, The Narrows, Darwin;
  4. Hughes Avenue Darwin Waterfront;
  5. WWII Hughes Airfield, south of Darwin;
  6. WWII Remnant No. 6 Oil Tank, Darwin Waterfront; and
  7. Fergusson River Overland Telegraph Line Pylons and Oppenheimer Poles, north of Katherine.
4. Presented 12 heritage assessment reports to the Heritage Advisory Council for consideration for inclusion on the Northern Territory Heritage Register, which provides places with statutory protection under the *Heritage Conservation Act*.
5. Implemented the \$1M annual Territory Government Conservation Program for government-owned heritage assets throughout the Territory.
6. Allocated \$239 350 in grants to 25 recipients under the annual Northern Territory Government's Heritage Grants Program.

7. Provided \$35 418 in assistance to 14 recipients under the Rates Relief Program. The purpose of the Rates Relief Program is to assist in the conservation of privately owned heritage places. Owners of properties used exclusively for residential purposes are reimbursed 75 per cent of rates paid, for other properties the figure is 25 per cent.

### Challenges in 2011–12: Heritage Conservation

1. Finalising administrative requirements for commencement of the new *Heritage Act* in 2012–13.

### Future Priorities in 2012–13: Heritage Conservation

1. Managing commencement of the new *Heritage Act*, including adherence to new procedures and timelines.
2. Continuing to enhance the interpretation of the Territory's natural and cultural heritage, including encouraging events and activities associated with heritage places and the development of Heritage Trails.

## Output Group: Arts and Culture

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.

This Output Group is responsible for protecting and providing access to the Territory's scientific, and cultural collections, and assisting the community to care for and make best use of these assets to create commercial, educational and recreational opportunities.

This Output Group is attributed \$48.3 million of the Department's \$192.4 million budget.

There are two Outputs within this Output Group:

- Scientific and Cultural Collections; and
- Arts and Screen Sector.

## Output: Scientific and Cultural Collections

This Output accounts for, preserves and provides access to Territory art, cultural, natural history and plant collections, and provides education and enjoyment to the community.

Functions of the Agency within this Output are:

- Araluen Arts Centre
- Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory
- Northern Territory Library
- Northern Territory Archives Services
- George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens
- Northern Territory Herbarium

## Araluen Arts Centre

The Araluen Art Centre delivers, facilitates and promotes performing arts, cinema, visual arts, cultural and tourism programs and attractions for residents and visitors to Central Australia.

## Performance Measures: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Araluen Arts Centre

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Actual	11–12 Estimate	11–12 Actual	12–13 Budget
Visitors to visual arts exhibitions	22 933	21 084	27 387	25 000	25 256 <sup>1</sup>	25 000
Visitor satisfaction with visual arts exhibitions	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%
Patrons attending cinema and performances	20 424	23 190	28 188	23 000	28 972 <sup>2</sup>	23 000
Patron satisfaction with cinema and performances	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%

## Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Strong local attendance at exhibitions and associated visual arts events accounted for meeting estimated visitation numbers. However, declining visitation to Alice Springs by tourists sees actual figures for 2011–12 below those of 2010–11.
2. Strong local visitation at theatre performances and cinema screenings saw actual visitor numbers exceed the estimated visitor numbers, which has based off ongoing declining visitation to Alice Springs by tourists.

### Key Achievements in 2011–12: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Araluen Arts Centre

1. Commenced a master planning process for future development of the Araluen Cultural Precinct and its facilities, with major input from the Precinct's Community Reference Group. This is a key aspect of the *Araluen Cultural Precinct Development Plan 2010–2015*.
2. Commenced installation of a new \$0.64M photovoltaic solar power system for the Araluen Arts Centre that will deliver 60 per cent of the Centre's electricity requirements when complete in 2012–13.
3. Commenced construction of a new \$4.5M air conditioning plant and system for the Araluen Arts Centre.
4. Presented 10 performances in the Araluen Arts Centre Theatre, as follows:
  1. Rainbow's End – Riverside productions;
  2. Often I Find that I am Naked – Critical Stages;
  3. My Grandma Lives in Gooligulch – Graeme Base and Gary Ginivan Productions;
  4. La Traviata – Oz Opera;
  5. Julius Caesar – Bell Shakespeare;
  6. Mathinna – Bangarra Dance Company;
  7. The Happiest Show on Earth – Patch Theatre Company;
  8. Happy Birthday Peter Rabbit – Gary Ginivan Productions;
  9. Namatjira – BigHart; and
  10. Syncopation – Critical Stages.

The program also supported the development and presentation of shows by local arts organisations and included performances by the Duprada Dance Company, Incite Youth Arts, the Alice Desert Festival Wearable Art Awards, and the 26th annual Centralian Eisteddfod.

Staged 17 temporary, national and local community exhibitions, as follows:

#### Temporary

1. Going Places – Works from the Araluen Art Collection;
2. Obscured by Light – Pam Lofts and Kim Mahood;
3. Desert Mob 2011;
4. Faces of Larapinta – Yarrenyty Arltere Artists;
5. Bridget Nicholson – Touched at the centre;
6. 2011 Exhibition – Alice Springs Quilting Club;
7. A Rich Legacy – celebrating the 40th anniversary of the western desert art movement;
8. The Art of Albert Namatjira;
9. Challenge of Place – Works from the Araluen Art Collection;
10. Sequences and Cycles – Contemporary Ceramics from the Desert;
11. Looking for Turtles – Suzi Lyon; and
12. Slow Burn – Henry Smith.

#### National

13. Spirit in the Land;
14. The 37th Alice Prize; and
15. Kuru Alala Eyes Open – Tjanpi Desert Weavers, Maria Fernanda Cardoso, Alison Clouston.

#### Local Community Exhibitions

16. The Advocate Art Award; and
17. Old Stories New Yarns – The Alice Springs Beanie Festival Exhibition.

**Challenges in 2011–12: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Araluen Arts Centre**

1. Construction of a new air conditioning plant and system for the Araluen Arts Centre has been delayed due to the financial collapse of the Hastie’s Group PL, with the lead contractor on the project, Airductor being part of the Hastie’s Group of companies.
2. Maintaining visitation to visual arts exhibitions in light of continued decreasing tourist numbers.

**Future Priorities in 2012–13: Scientific and Cultural Collections–Araluen Arts Centre**

1. Finalise a master plan for future development of the Precinct and its facilities, as outlined in the *Development Plan*, with input from the Araluen Cultural Precinct Community Reference Group.
2. Finalise installation and commissioning of the new air conditioning system.
3. Finalise installation and commissioning of the new solar power system.
4. Develop and support community access to the Araluen Arts Centre by local artists, arts organisations, schools and community groups and assist local productions to achieve high performance standards and good audiences.

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

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Actual	11–12 Estimate	11–12 Actual	12–13 Budget
Visitors	311 027	284 134	278 856	288 000	291 618 <sup>3</sup>	290 000
Visitor satisfaction	95%	95%	99%	98%	96% <sup>4</sup>	98%
Exhibitions	6	7	11	12	12 <sup>5</sup>	11
Collection accessible to the public	26%	26%	25%	27%	27% <sup>6</sup>	30%

**Explanatory Notes to the Table**

3. The Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) attracted 240 576 visitors to the following Darwin venues:
  - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (196 850);
  - Fannie Bay Gaol (27 447);
  - Lyons Cottage (16 279);

The Defence of Darwin Experience facility attracted 26 837 visitors since opening on 18 February 2012.

The Museum of Central Australia and Strehlow Research Centre in Alice Springs attracted 12 900 visitors.

The Central Australian Aviation Museum in Alice Springs attracted 11 305 visitors.

4. Visitor satisfaction was measured by an intercept survey and a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award exhibition survey conducted by external providers. In 2012–13, two surveys will be conducted both on and off site of the MAGNT Darwin, providing more robust and informative data from visitors as well as the public to inform future planning.

5. Twelve exhibitions were opened by the MAGNT:

#### **MAGNT Darwin**

1. 28th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award;
2. Exit Art – contemporary youth art of Northern Territory Year 12 students 2011;
3. Yalangbara: art of the Djang'kawu;
4. People and Place: Photography from the MAGNT's collection;
5. Activate Cultivate: a survey exhibition of Red Hand Print posters;
6. Gone Fishin'... The reel Top End story; and
7. Diving for Shell: Aspects of Pearling in North Australian waters.

#### **Defence of Darwin Experience**

8. 70th Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin.

#### **Fannie Bay Gaol**

9. Behind the Wire: annual Corrective Services exhibition.

#### **Museum of Central Australia**

10. A Thousand Miles to War;
  11. Ancestral Power and the Aesthetic: paintings and objects from the Donald Thomson Collection; and
  12. The Line and the Station.
6. Scale of the collections and limited gallery space precludes having all collections on public display at any one given time. In some instances, collection materials are culturally sensitive and, therefore, not accessible to the public. Increased public access has been achieved through the strategic use of MAGNT's own collection materials in production of the Yalangbara and Gone Fishin'... The reel Top End story exhibitions.

### **Key Achievements in 2010–11: Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory**

1. Completed construction and officially opened the Defence of Darwin Experience visitor facility at East Point. The facility commemorates the 70th Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin and provides visitors with an interactive multi-media experience of the World War II environment extending to nine heritage sites around Darwin.
2. Delivered the 28th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award which fostered the involvement of 62 Indigenous artists and their respective art centres from around Australia. The exhibition included a virtual online gallery with images of all artworks and audio recordings of the artists' statements. The exhibition attracted strong visitation and was supported by a series of floor talks and workshops.
3. Created and presented the highly successful Gone Fishin'... The reel Top End story exhibition, which resulted in increased public access to the MAGNT collections and collaboration with local partners. The associated community photo competition also achieved a high level of engagement and helped to attract a varied local audience.
4. Completed two digital media projects which include the construction and release of the Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award online collection to provide public access to the range of works collected over the history of the event; and completion of a 10 year community engagement project and release of Ankung Kunred multimedia CD, supported by the Gordon Darling Foundation.
5. Delivered a range of new school based engagement programs including mentoring of work experience students, school talks, school holiday program activities and Museum tours including behind the scenes tours of the collection to the Alice Springs Field Naturalists and other interested groups.
6. Commenced development of a community engagement strategy and natural science based school outreach program in collaboration with the Arid Lands Environment Centre.

7. Developed and completed a five year strategic plan for the Strehlow Research Centre's Indigenous Repatriation Program which has been submitted to the Australian Government's Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.
8. Completed the migration of all Strehlow Collection data to a new Collection Management System, with all Strehlow Arrernte family trees now digitised and commenced indexing of Strehlow's Field Diaries.
9. Coordinated and completed the Collection Valuation project of the MAGNT's collection assets. This is the first time that MAGNT's material culture and natural sciences collections have been formally and professionally evaluated.
10. Completed the Storage Review project to upgrade MAGNT Bullocky Point storage areas, which has improved work health and safety of the area.
11. Implemented a Water Mist Fire Suppression System in the MAGNT wet store as a major capital works project to ensure the long-term preservation of the natural science wet collection. This showcases a best practice system and ensures security and perpetuity of the collections.
12. Provided Grant funding through the Regional Museums Grant Support Program to eight organisations across the Northern Territory totalling \$222 000. All 2011–12 Grant recipients are listed in the Appendixes on page 227.

### Challenges in 2011–12: Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory

1. Return of material prioritised for repatriation in accordance with the Strehlow Research Centre's Return of Indigenous Cultural Property Forward Work Plan was compromised due to a range of external factors, including community requirement for ongoing consultation and the Wet season making roads impassable.
2. Delivering increased community access to collections within the limitations of physical gallery space and storage areas at the MAGNT.
3. Maintaining visitor attendance to the institution during a period of reduced tourism activity.
4. Providing resourcing and integral support to the Defence of Darwin Experience project, while maintaining MAGNT outcomes.

### Future Priorities in 2012–13: Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory

1. Renew the sponsorship agreement with Telstra for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award and plan for the Award's 30th anniversary in 2013.
2. Develop exhibition and public program opportunities to coincide with the 40th anniversary of Cyclone Tracy.
3. Progress the return of material prioritised for repatriation in accordance with the Strehlow Research Centre's Return of Indigenous Cultural Property Forward Work Plan.



## Northern Territory Library

The Northern Territory Library ensures that documentary resources of significance to the Northern Territory and Territorians are collected preserved and made accessible. The Northern Territory Library also provides financial, policy and advocacy support for the development and promotion of the network of public library services in the Territory.

### Performance Measures: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Northern Territory Library

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Actual	11–12 Estimate	11–12 Actual	12–13 Budget
On-site visits <sup>7</sup>	149 287	146 352	146 836	145 000	129 681 <sup>8</sup>	145 000
Website visits <sup>9</sup>	564 000	450 161	359 604	360 000	143 856 <sup>10</sup>	360 000
Visitor satisfaction <sup>11</sup>	92%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
References enquiries satisfied within 48 hours <sup>12</sup>	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%
Grants distributed <sup>13</sup>	\$3.5M	\$3.5M	\$3.6M	\$3.7M	\$3.7M	\$3.9M

### Explanatory Notes to the Table

7. Visitors by electronic door count to the Northern Territory Library at Parliament House.
8. The 2011–12 actual figure is lower than the estimate due to reduced tourist visitor numbers in the Territory and increased access to online resources.
9. These figures are a total number of visits compiled from the Northern Territory Library website and other publically available websites, such as Territory Stories and the Parliamentary Library Service.
10. This is lower than estimated due to the implementation of the Agency's new Internet Content Management System in late 2011, whereby two different statistics/analytics programs (Netracker and Google Analytics) were used to track and record visitor data to the Agency. Utilisation of two different analytics programs resulted in data discrepancies. Average total website visits per month have been collected. Estimation was made to determine yearly figures. In 2012–13, Google Analytics will be used for statistical information, being a more sophisticated, accurate and recommended program.
11. Visitor satisfaction is measured through customer surveys conducted over a four week period.
12. The percentage of reference enquiries satisfied within 48 hours or, if it is determined that a longer period is required, within agreed revised timeframes.
13. Grants distribution is governed by the Public Library Agreement. Total payments vary each year in accordance with the Consumer Price Index and other adjustments. The list of grants distributed in 2011–12 is as follows:

Grant Recipient	Grant \$
Tiwi Islands Shire Council	\$58 883
Coomalie Community Government Council	\$47 316
East Arnhem Shire Council	\$199 782
West Arnhem Shire Council	\$90 428
Victoria River - Daly Shire Council	\$140 899
Roper Gulf Shire Council	\$152 464
Barkly Shire Council	\$168 237
Central Desert Shire Council	\$82 016
MacDonnell Shire Council	\$35 751

Ayers Rock Resort Management	\$31 500
Alyangula Area School	\$31 500
City of Darwin Libraries	\$1 374 891
Alice Springs Town Council	\$555 273
City of Palmerston Council	\$532 364
Katherine Town Council	\$236 899
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3 738 203</b>

### Key Achievements in 2011–12: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Northern Territory Library

1. Converted Northern Territory Library collection items to digital format and supplied digital copies in response to orders from the community.
2. Provided training and communication technology support to 40 communities across the Northern Territory through the Remote Indigenous Public Internet Access (RIPIA) project including successful Community Embracing Technology workshops in Darwin, Katherine, Nhulunbuy and Alice Springs. RIPIA is a National Partnership Agreement Closing the Gap initiative.
3. Commenced developing a framework for the roll-out of Community Stories software to libraries and other public Internet access points. This was enabled by the RIPIA project and is aimed to be available in all Territory Growth Towns.
4. Developed and installed a new Job Order Ticketing system, used to manage and prioritise digitisation, National Partnership Agreement and Remote Indigenous Public Internet Access work flows.
5. Incorporated the 2012 National Year of Reading objectives in the development of the *Family Literacy Strategy*, emphasising multi-literacy and an arts-based approach to delivering programs.

6. Developed the Remembering Territory Families touring exhibition to complement the online exhibition where many Territory families told their stories.

### Challenges in 2011–12: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Northern Territory Library

1. Recruiting staff with relevant experience for supporting digital systems used by the Agency's Northern Territory Library.

### Future Priorities in 2012–13: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Northern Territory Library

1. Finalise and implement a new Public Library Agreement outlining the ongoing relationships between the Agency's Northern Territory Library Service and local governments.
2. Develop the Northern Territory *Library Strategic Policy 2012–16*.
3. Continue the roll-out of Community Stories to libraries without a current database and ensure the program is available to all Territory Growth Towns.
4. Continue to enhance and further develop the Territory Stories digital repository to appropriate industry standards, to improve the integrity of the system, and the discoverability of the data.
5. Continue incorporating the 2012 National Year of Reading objectives in the development of the *Family Literacy Strategy*, emphasising multi-literacy and an arts-based approach to delivering programs.

## Northern Territory Archives Services

This Output collects, preserves and provides community access to Northern Territory Archives and facilitates historical research.

### Performance Measures: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Northern Territory Archives Services

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Actual	11–12 Estimate	11–12 Actual	12–13 Budget
Visitors	927	944	855	1 000	820 <sup>14</sup>	800
Website visits <sup>15</sup>	NA*	10 840	34 070	50 000	30 798 <sup>16</sup>	50 000
Archives collections managed	3 097	3 137	3 188	3 250	3 218	3 400
Archives issued to researchers	20 733	19 881	26 625	22 000	20 881 <sup>17</sup>	18 000
Research requests satisfied within one month	98%	99%	99%	98%	100%	95%

### Explanatory Notes to the Table

NA\* – This was a new key deliverable in 2010–11. The historical data for 2008–09 is not available.

- This figure represents a decline from previous years which may be attributed to increasing public access to digitised material.
- These figures are a total number of visits to the Northern Territory Archives Services website.
- This is lower than estimated due to the implementation of the Agency's new Internet Content Management System in late 2011, whereby two different statistics/analytics programs (Netracker and Google Analytics) were used to track and record visitor data to the Agency. Utilisation of two different analytics programs resulted in data discrepancies. Average total website visits per month have been collected. Estimation was made to determine yearly figures.

In 2012–13, Google Analytics will be used for statistical information, being a more sophisticated, accurate and recommended program.

- This figure represents a slight decline from previous years due to improvements in identification and retrieval processes available through the Internet.

### Key Achievements in 2011–12: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Northern Territory Archives Services

- Supported the Defence of Darwin Experience project by researching and providing archives for display, particularly the Oral History collection, film and personal photographs.
- Finalised co-location arrangements of the Northern Territory Archives Service's physical move to the National Archives of Australia's Darwin facility. The relocation to a shared facility will occur in 2012–13.
- Released the 1981 Cabinet Records on 1 January 2012 in accordance with the *Information Act*, to provide access to government archives that are over 30 years of age. Documents released included:
  - the decision to replace the three-term school year with a two-semester year;
  - consideration of the proposal to establish Kings Canyon National Park/ Watarrka National Park, south west of Alice Springs;
  - the decision to update the Building Manual to ensure greater provision for disabled persons in new building construction and establish a Disabled Persons Bureau; and
  - the decisions to approve the trial of the Solar Rebate Scheme.
 Digitised copies of key decisions were made available on the Agency's website.

4. Issued \$52 000 to 15 recipients as part of the Northern Territory History Grants Program to promote and assist with the research of Northern Territory history. Projects included:
  - research into the life of Bert Nixon;
  - research into Northern Territory Trepan, Australia's oldest export industry;
  - research into the history of forensic science in the Northern Territory; and
  - research and recording oral histories documenting the Gurindji struggle for land rights 1975–1986.All 2011–12 Grant recipients are listed in the Appendixes on page 227.
5. Transferred 30 archives collections from Territory Government agencies and community donors which included photographs relating to wartime service, and Cabinet and Executive Council records for the annual release of Cabinet Records in January 2012.
6. Established an Oral History Advisory Committee to advise and guide the work of the Oral History program, which includes members representing the community and recorded 27 Oral History interviews that were lodged for preservation and access,
7. Migrated 165 sound recordings of interviews onto new digital media to ensure their ongoing preservation and accessibility.
8. Promoted archives collections through a media partnership with:
  - The *NT News* for the “Darwin Then and Now” feature which ran daily through July 2011; and
  - The ABC Radio program “Postcards from History”.

### Challenges in 2011–12: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Northern Territory Archives Services

1. Effectively and efficiently managing an increased volume of donated community and personal archival collections in lieu of finalisation of the co-location arrangements with the National Archives of Australia's Darwin office.

### Future Priorities in 2012–13: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Northern Territory Archives Services

1. Finalise the co-location with the National Archives of Australia and successfully relocate archival collections and provision of public access to the collections.
2. Continue enhancement of the archives management system for community access to the archives collections through the Agency's website.
3. Develop a strategy for the retention and preservation of digital archives (including the Oral History collection) in a continually evolving electronic environment.

## George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens

The George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens is a state level facility in the Northern Territory's capital city which aims to conserve the Territory's living flora collections and provide education and enjoyment to the community.

### Performance Measures: Scientific and Cultural Collections – George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Actual	11–12 Estimate	11–12 Actual	12–13 Budget
Visitors	345 800	209 646	231 500	264 000	216 300 <sup>18</sup>	265 000
Visitor satisfaction	98%	95%	95%	98%	98%	95%
Special events	4	5	5	6	7 <sup>19</sup>	6
Functions	83	108	86	100	143 <sup>20</sup>	100

### Explanatory Notes to the Table

18. Figures are collected by daily traffic counters and inherently contain a margin of error. Visitor numbers to the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens (Gardens) were below the 2011–12 estimate due to lower tourist numbers across Darwin.

19. Special events hosted this year included the:

1. Tropical Garden Spectacular and Top End Sustainable Living Festival;
2. Botanical BIITE Art and Craft Exhibition from students at the Bachelor Institute;
3. Sustainable Schools Day as a part of World Environment Day;
4. Teddy Bears' Picnic;
5. Darwin Annual Food and Wine Tasting Fair;
6. Nightcliff Orchid Society Annual Show; and
7. Corrugated Iron Theatre performance *Sita and Rama's Mystical Journey*.

The additional event from the six estimated was the Corrugated Iron Theatre's performance *Sita and Rama's Mystical Journey*.

20. Functions formally booked through the Gardens' booking system included birthdays, weddings, art exhibitions, workshops, corporate events, family days and memorials. A total of 143 functions were held, due to the reputation of the Gardens' being an economical and premier function site.

### Key Achievements Delivered in 2011–12: Scientific and Cultural Collections – George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens

1. Upgraded the Gardens' Primary Loop visitor's experience through design, construction and planting of the Sensory Immersion Garden.
2. Enhanced the Community Food Garden experience through increased number of plots and the involvement of the Snake Bean Group in Garden open days, through the Friends of the Botanic Gardens plant sales and the Tropical Garden Spectacular and Top End Sustainable Living Festival.
3. Commenced the refurbishment of the Wesleyan Church to enable the site to operate a food and beverage service and provide the opportunity for purchase of souvenirs and local craft. This will be operational in 2012–13.
4. Held the second Sustainable Schools Day involving 240 students from 12 schools, with students planting a food terrace, learning about climate change, biodiversity, resource management, cane toads and recycling. Fourteen other schools, totalling 363 students also visited throughout the year.
5. Offered a series of free Art Workshops for children on a once per-month basis over the Dry season. These featured natural found materials and encouraged families to reconnect with the inherent values of nature. This was achieved in partnership with the Friends of the Botanic Gardens and other community volunteers.
6. Commissioned an asbestos report to capture data on levels and location of asbestos material in the Gardens with a view to ongoing management of this risk.

7. Commissioned a water audit to integrate effective potable water management across the Gardens to increase efficiency of current irrigation practise and systems.

**Challenges in 2011–12: Scientific and Cultural Collections – George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens**

1. Identifying historical deposits of asbestos throughout the Gardens and manage visitor and staff safety and ongoing operations.
2. Managing effective stormwater ingress across the Gardens taking into consideration current development within the Gardens’ surrounding neighbours.

**Future Priorities in 2012–13: Scientific and Cultural Collections – George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens**

1. Design, plan, implement and curate the Mandala Garden, the Tiwi Wet Forest, the Gardens Road and Geranium Street entrances and a connecting loop in the lower rainforest.
2. Rebuild and interpret the history of the Holtze steps and create a linked pathway to connect the Plant Display House in partnership with the Friends of the Botanic Gardens.
3. Implement an Asbestos Management Plan to manage historical deposits of asbestos throughout the Gardens.
4. Implement a Water Management Plan as a model for future Gardens’ irrigation needs.
5. Further develop the Primary Loop by completing the planting of the food terrace, the stone terraced bed and terracing and planting of the mulched beds lining the walkway.

**Northern Territory Herbarium**

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

**Performance Measures: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Northern Territory Herbarium**

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Actual	11–12 Estimate	11–12 Actual	12–13 Budget
Research requests satisfied within one month	98%	98%	98%	98%	95% <sup>21</sup>	98%
Specimens in the collection	238 795	242 078	245 810	249 000	251 310 <sup>22</sup>	253 000

**Explanatory Notes to the Table**

21. The decrease in satisfactory responses to research request within one month is due to the large amounts of plant identifications required from environmental consultants.
22. The Northern Territory Herbarium collection grew by 5 500 specimens (both Palmerston and Alice Springs). This was slightly greater than in the previous period. The number of acquisitions databased is also affected by the number of collections made by staff and by specimens received as exchange or donation. The Herbarium collection grows through staff participation in various flora surveys.

### Key Achievements in 2011–12: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Northern Territory Herbarium

1. Provided identifications and advice on Northern Territory flora and plant species of conservation significance to over 500 enquiries including more than 1 200 plant identifications. This information was provided to the general public, industry, environmental consultants, Northern Territory Government agencies, Charles Darwin University, interstate and international agencies.
2. Completed the draft technical report on flora, vegetation and threatened species for the proposed Limmen National Park, south-east of Katherine.
3. Conducted field assessment of flora values and plant species of conservation significance at two Territory Eco-link program properties and one private conservation reserve:
  - Darguragu area, south-west of Katherine;
  - Fish River Station, west of Katherine; and
  - Wongalara Wildlife Sanctuary, east of Katherine.

Two of these properties were surveyed as part of the externally-funded Bush Blitz program.
4. Reviewed and finalised threatened species information sheets for more than 50 Territory plant species as part of the review of threatened species listed under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*. Draft materials for additional species of conservation significance were also prepared.
5. Discovered or recognised 15 new native species for the Territory, now listed as new phrase name taxa. The term ‘phrase name’ is used for an informal name given to a plant that does not have a formal scientific name.
  - *Acacia* sp. Kununarra (Lullfitz 6195)
  - *Aneilema* sp. Cannon Hill (Marstenz 810) B.Stuckey
  - *Cartonema* sp. El Sharana (Martensz & Schodde AE586)
  - *Cartonema* sp. Goyder River (I.D.Cowie 8334) Harwood
  - *Cartonema* sp. Korlobidahdah (R.K.Harwood 874) Harwood
  - *Cartonema* sp. pedicellate (M.Lazarides 7850)
  - *Cartonema* sp. tufted (L.A.Craven 2323)
  - *Cyanthillium* sp. grey leaf (P.S.Short 4793)
  - *Melhania* sp. Mt Bunday (I.D.Cowie 9988)
  - *Sida* sp. Lajamanu (K.Brennan)
  - *Tephrosia* sp. Bungaroo Ck (M.E.Trudgen 11601)
  - *Tephrosia* sp. crowded pinnae (C.R.Dunlop 8202)
  - *Tephrosia* sp. Muddy Bay (P.I.Forster 15313)
  - *Tephrosia* sp. sparse pinnae (C.R.Michell 2202)
  - *Thismia* sp. Melville Is (D.T.Liddle 3603)
6. Formally described 30 Northern Territory phrase name plant taxa:
  - *Helicteres cana* subsp. *latifolia*
  - *Helicteres darwinensis*
  - *Helicteres kombolgiana*
  - *Helicteres macrothrix*
  - *Helicteres serpens*
  - *Helicteres sphaerotheca*
  - *Helicteres tenuipila*
  - *Melaleuca ferruginea*
  - *Polygala barbata*
  - *Polygala barklyensis*

- *Polygala bifoliata*
  - *Polygala clavistyla*
  - *Polygala coralliformis*
  - *Polygala crassitesta*
  - *Polygala dependens*
  - *Polygala difficilis*
  - *Polygala dimorphotricha*
  - *Polygala galeocephala*
  - *Polygala geniculata*
  - *Polygala glaucifolia*
  - *Polygala integra*
  - *Polygala obversa*
  - *Polygala parviloba*
  - *Polygala petrophila*
  - *Polygala petrophila* var. *angustifolia*
  - *Polygala pterocarpa*
  - *Polygala saccopetala*
  - *Polygala succulenta*
  - *Polygala succulenta* var. *congesta*
  - *Polygala validiflora*
7. Completed conservation and taxonomic assessments and submitted for publication a manuscript describing a rare, phrase name species, *Atalaya* sp. Elizabeth River.
  8. Continued the redesign of the Northern Territory Vegetation plot database which is almost complete. This database will greatly improve the Agency's ability to provide accurate advice to government and the community on plants, vegetation and threatened species.

### Challenges in 2011–12: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Northern Territory Herbarium

1. Balancing competing priorities in provision of service and advice to both government and the community.

### Future Priorities in 2012–13: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Northern Territory Herbarium

1. Launch a publicly available flora website and associated database for the Territory, Flora NT in 2012–13. This will allow the community to access and search the Herbarium's corporate plant information. The website will generate fact sheets on plants of the Northern Territory including species descriptions, conservation status, images and identification tools.
2. Support further external development of the MacFlora interactive key to assist in identifying bioregion plants in the MacDonnell Ranges, Alice Springs. This will be funded by completing reporting on two major Bush Blitz funded expeditions for Fish River Station and Wongalara Wildlife Sanctuary and identifications for AUSPlots.
3. Finalise the Vegetation Site Database of the Northern Territory which contains floristic, structural and environmental information from across the Territory.
4. Finalise the technical report on flora and vegetation for Limmen National Park.



## Output: Arts and Screen Sector

The Arts and Screen Sector develops, supports and promotes growth of the creative arts and screen sectors for the benefit of the Territory, visitors, the community and economy through providing advice, supporting and developing partnerships, and providing financial and infrastructure support.

### Performance Measures: Arts and Screen Sector

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Actual	11–12 Estimate	11–12 Actual	12–13 Budget
Grants distributed	\$5.7M	\$6.06M	\$6.25M	\$6.8M	\$9.8M <sup>1</sup>	\$7M
Formalised partnerships	4	8	7	7	7 <sup>2</sup>	7
Stakeholder satisfaction	96%	81%	85%	85%	85%	85%

### Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Grants funding distributed is derived from total monies committed in 2011–12 and includes paid and accrued funds. The amount of grants distributed was \$9.8M and was comprised of Arts NT \$9.46M and Screen Territory \$0.35M.

Arts and Screen Sector Grants Programs	Grants \$
<b>Arts NT</b>	
Arts Organisations	\$4 596 000
Festivals	\$2 119 096
Project Rounds	\$390 020
Quick Response Scheme	\$36 000
Strategic Initiatives	\$1 165 978
Learning	\$417 500
Public Art	\$339 915
Community Grants	\$62 284
Indigenous Visual Arts Support Program	\$103 505
Regional Arts Fund	\$233 602
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9 463 900</b>

Screen Territory Program	
Screen Culture and Industry Development	\$91 000
Screen Culture Funding	\$17 700
Ignite Lab	\$25 670
The Bob Plasto Screen Award	\$10 000
Travel Funding	\$18 600
Strategic Initiatives	\$10 000
Attachments and Mentorships	\$14 440
Production Funding	\$85 000
Project Development Funding	\$45 100
REALISATOR	\$39 267
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$356 777</b>
<b>Total Arts and Screen Sector Grants</b>	<b>\$9 820 677</b>

- Seven formalised partnerships have been achieved. Formalised partnerships include memorandums of understanding and joint funding programs. There were five joint funding and program arrangements in 2011–12:
  - Agreement with the then Australian Government Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts for Regional Arts funding ending 30 June 2012.
  - Agreement with the Australian Government Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport, Office for the Arts for the Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support Professional Development program.
  - Arrangements with the Australia Council for the Arts for Community and Partnership Support Services.
  - Arrangements with the Australia Council for the Arts for Creative Education Partnerships: Artists-In-Residence.
  - Agreement with Regional Arts Australia to undertake a Northern Territory project as part of the National Strategic Initiative Projects.

6. Agreement with the Australian Government's Screen Australia, as the agency to support documentary development through REALISATOR.
7. Agreement with the Australian Government's Screen Australia, as the agency to support feature film development through Back to Basics and IGNITE LAB.

### Key Achievements in 2011–12: Arts and Screen Sector

1. Provided arts management expertise to the newly established Company operating the Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Arts and Culture Centre in Katherine. This included advice for the opening phases of the Centre including obtaining ongoing operational funding and support for the opening events, recruitment of the Director and assistance with furniture, fittings and equipment fit-out. The Centre was to be handed over to the Company on 2 July 2012 with the opening events on 14 July 2012.
2. Supported Music NT to hold a competition for a new Territory Anthem in the Northern Territory's Centenary Year. The competition was won by Central Australian musician, teacher and composer Stephanie Harrison with her entry Stand As One.
3. Progressed community management of the Chan Contemporary Arts Space in Darwin and its exhibition program in 2012 through funding to 24HR Art, NT Centre for Contemporary Arts (24HR Art).
4. Developed a new framework for the integration of arts into early childhood learning: Artists in Education and Remote Schools. Arrangements include Australian and Territory Government's cross agency funding and a community delivery partner, Corrugated Iron Youth Arts, at three Northern Territory locations.

5. Showcased the Being a Territory schools' digital arts competition with artworks from five school winners exploring changes that have shaped their Territory, in conjunction with the Territory's centenary anniversary. Artworks were presented in outdoor public places during the Darwin Festival in August 2011 and Alice Desert Festival in September 2011.
6. Delivered \$9.8M in grant funding through the Arts and Screen Grants Programs. All 2011–12 Grant recipients are listed in the Appendixes on page 227.

### Challenges in 2011–12: Arts and Screen Sector

1. Stabilising Arts Grants Programs in advance of approved new policy directions including revising and running a major competitive round for Arts programs and services (organisations).
2. Establishing a community management model for the Chan Contemporary Arts Space in Darwin, through 24HR Art.

### Future Priorities in 2012–13: Arts and Screen Sector

1. Finalise a new funding framework harmonised with the Territory's yet to be finalised *Living Arts Policy* and aligned with *Territory 2030* and *Working Future Policy* targets.
2. Further develop and refine the community management model for the Chan Contemporary Arts Space.

### Output Group: Sport and Recreation

This Output Group provides opportunities for Territorians to participate in sport and active recreation activities, optimises performance opportunities for athletes, manages sporting events and facilitates the construction and ongoing maintenance of major Northern Territory Government owned sport and active recreation facilities. The overall outcome sought is to provide Territorians with a lifelong involvement in sport and active recreation on a regular basis at whatever level they choose.

This Output Group is attributed \$27.4 million of the Department’s \$192.4 million budget.

There are four Outputs within this Output Group:

- Sports Development;
- Northern Territory Institute of Sport;
- Facilities; and
- Events and Engagement.

### Output: Sports Development

Develop and deliver quality grant and other programs to build the capacity and sustainability of the sporting and active recreation sector across the Territory.

#### Performance Measures: Sport and Recreation – Sports Development

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Actual	11–12 Estimate	11–12 Actual	12–13 Budget
Value of grants distributed <sup>1</sup>	\$12.06M	\$10.49M	\$15.21M	\$7.8M	7.78M <sup>2</sup>	\$9.4M
Organisations that received Sportsbiz services	9	8	7	11	8 <sup>3</sup>	7
Community programs delivered	46	45	58	56	52 <sup>4</sup>	52
Community Sport and Recreation positions funded	56	58	59	58	58 <sup>5</sup>	58

#### Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Grants are distributed to a variety of organisations, shires, clubs and individuals that promote and provide sport and active recreation services.
2. Grants were provided to the following programs and events:

Grants Distributed Ongoing Programs	Grant \$M
Peak Sport and Recreation	3.60
Active Remote Communities (ARC)	1.28
Facilities Development	0.83
Closing the Gap	1.00
National League Incentive	0.35
Grass Roots Development	0.19
Special Assistance	0.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.78</b>

3. Sportsbiz services were provided for the following organisations:
  1. Basketball NT – Support to hold a strategic forum.
  2. Netball NT – Assistance to conduct a business review and support to implement recommendations.
  3. Squash NT – Assistance to conduct a review and support to implement recommendations.
  4. Riding for Disabled NT – Internal business review and ongoing support.
  5. Tennis NT – An internal review of Tennis in the NT, requested by Tennis NT.
  6. Boxing NT – Assistance with facility development funding and the commencement of a business review.
  7. Hockey NT – Assistance to develop a strategic plan.
  8. Athletics NT – Assistance to develop a business plan.

Services are provided on request as well as identifying sports in need. The number of sports requesting assistance was lower this year.

4. In accordance with the current Australian Sports Commission funding agreement 52 community programs were delivered as scheduled including: Assessor Training, Strategic Awareness, Beginner Coaching General Principles, Grants Information Sessions, Sportschat/Industry Breakfasts, Development Officer Network Meetings, Certificate IV in Training, Active After School Joint Project, Wheelchair Basketball, Disability Forum, Coloured Shirt Program, Community Hoops Basketball Program, Basic Level 0 Coaching Clinics, Footprints Football Program, Yipirinya Bush Schools Swimming and Lifestyle, Belyuen AFL Auskick Program and the Recreation Program.

5. Sport and recreation positions funded in communities are outlined in the following table:

Community	Number of positions	\$ Funding
<b>Barkly Shire</b>		
Tennant Creek		\$34 608
Ali Curung		\$34 608
Aherrenge		\$34 608
Urapuntja		\$34 608
Alpurrurulam		\$34 608
Elliot		\$34 608
<b>Barkly Shire Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$207 648</b>

<b>Central Desert Shire</b>		
Anmatjere		\$34 608
Arltarpilta		\$34 608
Lajamanu		\$34 608
Nyirripi		\$34 608
Yuelamu		\$34 608
Yuendumu		\$34 608
<b>Central Desert Shire Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$207 648</b>

<b>East Arnhem Shire</b>		
Milingimbi		\$34 608
Ramingining		\$34 608
Galiwinku		\$34 608
Gapuwiyak		\$34 608
Yirrkala		\$34 608
Marngarr		\$34 608
Umbakumba		\$34 608
Angurugu		\$34 608
<b>East Arnhem Shire Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>\$276 864</b>

<b>Macdonnell Shire</b>		
Areyonga		\$34 608
Ikuntji		\$34 608
Ntaria		\$34 608
Papunya		\$34 608
Walungurru		\$34 608
Amoonguna		\$34 608
Ltyentye Apurte		\$34 608
Tapatjatjaka		\$34 608
Watiyawanu		\$34 608
<b>MacDonnell Shire Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>\$311 472</b>

<b>Roper Gulf Shire</b>		
Boorooloa		\$34 608
Numbulwar Numburindi		\$34 608
Nyirranggulung Mardruk Ngadberre		\$34 608
Yugul Mangi – Ngukurr x 2		\$69 216
Mataranka		\$34 608
Jilkminggan		\$34 608
<b>Roper Gulf Shire Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>\$242 256</b>

<b>Tiwi Island Shire</b>		
Nguiu		\$34 608
Milikapiti		\$34 608
Pirlangimpi		\$34 608
<b>Tiwi Island Shire Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>\$103 824</b>

<b>Victoria Daly Shire</b>		
Naiyu Nambiyu		\$34 608
Peppimenarti		\$34 608
Thamarrurr - Wadey		\$34 608
Daguragu		\$34 608
Timber Creek		\$34 608
Walangeri Ngumpinku		\$34 608
Pine Creek		\$34 608
<b>Victoria Daly Shire Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>\$242 256</b>

<b>West Arnhem Shire</b>		
Maningrida		\$53 736
Jabiru		\$34 608
Kunbarllanjnja		\$53 736
Minjilang		\$34 608
Waruwi		\$34 608
<b>West Arnhem Shire Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$211 296</b>

<b>Non-Government Organisations</b>		
Anyinginyi Health Ab Corp (NGO)		\$40 000
Mt Theo-Yuendumu Substance M AbC		\$36 978
Tangentyere Council		\$28 709
Comalie Council		\$30 178
Cox Peninsula - Wagait		\$20 178
Wurli Wurlinjang - Binjari Community position		\$33 846
Belyuen Community Council		\$33 846
<b>Non-Government Organisations Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>\$223 735</b>

The above positions are funded through the Local Government Shires and Non Government Organisations to provide a range of sport and recreational opportunities for Indigenous Territorians living in remote communities including running softball shire competitions, basketball programs, community disco's and film nights.

### Key Achievements in 2011–12: Sport and Recreation – Sports Development

1. Implemented the Online Grants Management System which the community can use to apply for all Sport and Recreation grant programs. The system will improve speed and efficiency for the delivery of Sports Development Grant Programs.
2. Delivered the Women in Sport Leadership Program in conjunction with Australian Womensport and Recreation Association. The program included the delivery of Women in Leadership seminars in both Alice Springs and Darwin. The commencement of a mentoring project which matches aspiring female sports leaders with mentors to support their development also occurred.
3. Delivered multiple courses in conjunction with Sports Medicine Australia, in both Alice Springs and Darwin, with more than 90 people trained in taping techniques.
4. Delivered two My Ability sports days in Alice Springs to provide networking opportunities between people with disabilities and service providers through a range of different sports and activities. More than 35 people participated in Zumba, AFL, soccer, table tennis, Boccia, wheelchair basketball, cricket and skill based games strengthening relationships with disabled clients and encouraging active participation in services available in Alice Springs.
5. Delivered a coaching and baseball gala day in conjunction with the Australian Sports Commission's Active After School Communities (AASC) program, in Alice Springs. Eight participants completed the level one baseball course and the AASC Community Coach program. More than 60 children from four primary schools and youth centres participated with eight children becoming members of the sporting club as a result of participation on the day.
6. Implemented the Sport Demonstration Project across five Remote Service Delivery sites to facilitate the development of community identified sport programs, focused on youth participation.

### Challenges in 2011–12: Sport and Recreation – Sports Development

1. Influencing peak sporting bodies, associations and clubs to apply best practice governance to improve sustainability and performance.
2. Supporting organisations dependent on volunteer resources to provide and continually improve services and opportunities to their participants in an increasingly competitive market.
3. Implementing, developing and sustaining sport and recreation programs in remote areas, while managing the impact of high turnover rates of Local Government Shire staff.
4. Limited capacity of peak sporting bodies to meet growing requests for delivery of services, such as coaching and officiating accreditation in remote communities.

### Future Priorities in 2012–13: Sport and Recreation – Sports Development

1. Continue to ensure governance practices are being followed and provide ongoing governance and management advice to sporting organisations.
2. Encourage the use of the Australian Sports Commission's Club Health Check Program.
3. Review grant funding programs to improve internal efficiencies, enable objective assessment of risks and opportunities, and ensure funding investments are aligned with *Sport Policy One's* objectives.
4. Review and update the Memorandum of Understanding with all Shires to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of sport and active recreation program delivery in remote communities, and support the development of Community Sport and Recreation Officers.
5. Lead and support identified actions in the Working Future Local Implementation Plans. There are 25 actions for which the Agency is responsible. These actions are centred on developing a simpler, streamlined and integrated approach to services and ensuring that facilities are at a standard to effectively and efficiently meet identified needs.

## Output: Northern Territory Institute of Sport

Provision of integrated coaching and sport enhancement support services to talented Territory athletes that assist success in sport and life, and the provision of advice to sporting organisations that will support high performance strategies.

### Performance Measures: Sport and Recreation – Northern Territory Institute of Sport

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Actual	11–12 Estimate	11–12 Actual	12–13 Budget
NTIS athlete scholarship holders <sup>1</sup>	149	163	209	120	148 <sup>2</sup>	120
Major athlete and coach service programs <sup>3</sup>	9	9	9	9	9	9
Peak sporting bodies supported by the NTIS <sup>4</sup>	10	12	12	12	12	12
Athletes achieving national squad or national league club representation <sup>5</sup>	24	18	21	15	21 <sup>6</sup>	15

#### Explanatory Notes to the Table

- Scholarship holders are the total number of athletes who were awarded a Northern Territory Institute of Sport (NTIS) scholarship in 2011–12. Scholarships are awarded to athletes based on an assessment process conducted by the NTIS, NT Peak Sporting Body (e.g. Hockey NT) and the National Sporting Organisation (e.g. Hockey Australia). This assessment is conducted at one of five levels that align to the National Institute Network Scholarship Framework introduced in 2011–12: Level 1 – World Class Athlete; Level 2 – International Class Athlete; Level 3 – Developing International Class, or National Professional League, Athlete; Level 4 – Potential International Class, or Potential National Professional League, Athlete; and, Level 5 – Talented Athlete.
- It was anticipated that up to 120 athletes would be eligible for a NTIS scholarship in 2011–12 but the final total was 148. This higher number was due to athletes on 2010–11 scholarship agreements that did not expire until several months into the 2011–12 financial year.
- Programs provided to NTIS athletes included coaching, high performance management, sports medicine and physiotherapy, strength and conditioning, biomechanics and skill acquisition, physiology, psychology, career and education guidance, and nutrition.
- Peak sporting bodies supported by the NTIS were:
  - Australian Football;
  - Cricket;
  - Cycling;
  - Football (soccer);
  - Hockey;
  - Netball;
  - Rugby League;
  - Rugby Union;
  - Swimming;
  - Tennis;
  - Tenpin Bowling; and
  - Yachting.
- Athletes achieving national squad and national league club representation refers to NTIS athletes who were selected for national teams or squads (at junior or senior level) or signed contracts with teams in national, professional level, competitions such as the Australian Football League or National Rugby League.

6. Athletes achieving national squad and national league representation in 2011–12 included:

Sport	Athlete	Representation
Athletics	Crystal Attenborough	Senior 4x100m Women's Relay Team
Cricket	Matt Hanna	U19 Merit Squad
	Joel Logan	U19 World Cup Squad
Cycling	Luke Ellison	U19 Downhill Mountain Bike Team
Hockey	Desmond Abbott	Senior (Kookaburras) Team, including 2012 Olympics
	Joel Carroll	Senior (Kookaburras) Team, including 2012 Olympics
	Elizabeth Duguid	Junior Team
	Tarrant Haami-Jones	Junior Team
	Jeremy Hayward	Junior Team
	Leon Hayward	Senior Development Squad
	Adrian Lockley	Australia 'A' Team
Rugby League	Brooke Peris	Junior team
	Dylan Cartwright	U20 Cronulla Sutherland Sharks
Squash	Chris Smith	U18 Penrith Panthers
	Rhys Dowling	Junior Squad
Swimming	Tahnee Afuhaamango	Senior Australian World Down Syndrome International Swimming Organisation Championships Team
Weightlifting	Andoni Halkitis	Youth Development Squad
	Andrea Mullins	Junior Squad
	Jack Rau	Youth Development Squad
Wheelchair Basketball	Melanie Hall	Senior (Gliders) Team
	Tom O'Neill-Thorne	U23 Team

The estimated figure of 15 athletes was exceeded. An actual figure of the number of athletes is difficult to predict. While the NTIS can influence the development of athletes, other variables such as injury, retirements and selection preferences can impact on this key deliverable.

### Key Achievements in 2011–12: Sport and Recreation – Northern Territory Institute of Sport

1. Supported two NTIS athletes, Desmond Abbott and Joel Carroll, who were selected to represent Australia in Hockey at the London Olympics.
2. Developed a sport specific athlete capability assessment criteria, in collaboration with Peak Sporting Bodies and National Sporting Organisations. This provides measurable assessment of athletes across key areas of performance such as technical and tactical skills, physical and psychological attributes, as well as behavioural and external factors that influence each athlete's likely development potential and actual progress while on NTIS scholarship.
3. Finalised an athlete curriculum in collaboration with Peak Sporting Bodies and National Sporting Organisations. This outlines information, education and development opportunities an athlete should experience while on NTIS scholarship or as an academy level athlete managed directly by the Peak Sporting Body.
4. Implemented a services framework that provides both athlete and coach education and improvement in high performance training, sport science and sports medicine. This is available to NTIS scholarship holders and underpins academy programs managed by Peak Sporting Bodies.
5. Delivered information and education seminars to various sporting organisations, community groups, professional bodies (e.g. the Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation), and schools (e.g. School Sport NT), including hosting work experience and practicum opportunities and facility tours for high school students.
6. Provided direct contribution to national high performance strategies and outcomes through involvement in National Elite Sports Council activities, such as assessment of National Sporting Organisations' High Performance Plans, and development of a National Athlete Support Scheme and a National High Performance Sport Strategy.



7. Refined the NTIS athlete database, so all NTIS staff now have access to and are able to utilise the product.
8. Strengthened working relationships with Charles Darwin University (CDU) and continued recognition by the NTIS of CDU as an Elite Athlete Friendly University. The NTIS hosted students on practicum assignments, and provided a prize to the best third year practicum student.

### Challenges in 2011–12: Sport and Recreation – Northern Territory Institute of Sport

1. Obtaining engagement by all relevant National Sporting Organisations so adequate support for high performance athlete and coach development programs is provided to Peak Sporting Bodies in the Northern Territory.
2. Balancing the provision of quality services to NTIS coaches and athletes while also supporting Peak Sporting Bodies with development of academy programs, and responding to requests by the wider sport community for NTIS assistance with delivery of information and education sessions.
3. Accessing higher level training and competition opportunities interstate; a critical component of improved coaching practices and developing athletes to the highest levels within their sport.
4. Support to, and development of, high performance coaches that are necessary to support talented athlete development in regional areas.

### Future Priorities in 2012–13: Sport and Recreation – Northern Territory Institute of Sport

1. Review existing agreements with the 12 Peak Sporting Bodies which expire at the end of 2012–13 and develop a new NTIS Sport Framework for implementation in 2013–14.
2. Continue to seek opportunities to provide input into high performance planning and reviews by relevant Peak Sporting Bodies and National Sporting Organisations.
3. Finalise the Memorandum of Understanding with Charles Darwin University (CDU) that outlines how the NTIS and CDU will continue to work together and support the attainment of mutually beneficial outcomes.
4. Explore opportunities for raising revenue to further support scholarship athletes and high performance coach development.
5. Continue to work with Peak sporting bodies to improve the quality of programs.

## Output: Facilities

This Output is responsible for the development, maintenance and management of key sporting facilities.

### Performance Measures: Sport and Recreation – Facilities

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Actual	11–12 Estimate	11–12 Actual	12–13 Budget
Government-owned facilities leased to sport and active recreation bodies	5	6	5	11	11 <sup>1</sup>	11
Government-owned and managed sporting facilities	2	2 <sup>3</sup>	2	2	2 <sup>2</sup>	2
Use of Marrara Indoor Stadium	51%	60%	50.3%	60%	43% <sup>3</sup>	65%
Usage of Hidden Valley Motor Sport Complex	48%	58%	60%	60%	66% <sup>4</sup>	65%

### Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Territory Government owned sporting and active recreation facilities leased to sporting and active recreation bodies are:
  1. Larrakia Park, Darwin Football Stadium: Leased to the Football Federation Northern Territory;
  2. TIO Stadium: Leased to Australian Football League Northern Territory;
  3. Marrara Stadium Multipurpose Hall: Leased to the Judo Federation NT, Gymnastics NT, NT Table Tennis;
  4. Micket Creek Shooting Complex: Leased to the Northern Territory Firearms Council;
  5. Marrara Netball Complex: Leased to Netball Northern Territory;
  6. Palmerston Netball Complex: Leased to Palmerston Netball Association Ltd;

7. Palmerston Tennis Centre: Leased to Netball NT;
  8. Palmerston Football Complex: Leased to the Palmerston Football Club;
  9. Palmerston Rugby League Complex: Leased to Palmerston Raiders Rugby League Club;
  10. Palmerston Water Park: Leased to YMCA; and
  11. Leanyer Recreation Park: Leased to YMCA.
2. Territory Government owned and managed sporting facilities are:
    - Marrara Indoor Stadium; and
    - Hidden Valley Motor Sports Complex.
  3. This figure is calculated as a percentage of the total hours the facility is available for hire. Usage decreased due to the facility being unavailable during Tropical Cyclone warnings, reduced bookings during the Pan Hellenic Games and the cancellation of the National Basketball League Pre-Season Competition.
  4. This figure is calculated as a percentage of the total hours the facility is utilised. Usage increased due to additional commercial bookings as a result of the recognition by motorsport organisations of the options available at Hidden Valley from attending major events at the facility.

### Key Achievements in 2011–12: Sport and Recreation – Facilities

1. Completion of the Palmerston Water Park, which included a 14 metre high, 100 metre long six lane racer water slide, two water play areas with a shallow wading pool, water cannons and interactive play areas. Other amenities included a cafe, lifeguard offices, toilets and change rooms, barbecues and extension to the existing skate park. The facility was officially opened in June 2012.
2. Completion of a 104 person capacity cafe at the Leanyer Recreation Park, which includes a commercial kitchen, alfresco and air conditioned areas for diners. The cafe was officially opened in May 2012.

3. Completion of the Palmerston tennis/netball facility. The multipurpose facility includes seven competition size tennis courts, six competition sized netball courts, each with lighting. A clubhouse, canteen and administration offices were also part of the facility, which opened in January 2012.
4. Completion of the Palmerston Rugby League facility, which includes two full-sized fields with lighting, a 300 capacity grandstand, club rooms and amenities. The facility was officially opened in April 2012.
5. Completion of the Palmerston football facility, which included two full-size fields with lighting, four dedicated junior mini modified fields, a club house, canteen and grandstand. The facility was officially opened in May 2012.
6. Completion of the Palmerston AFL facility, which includes match-quality lighting, resurfaced ovals, a new grandstand with verandah to seat 610 people, change rooms, coaches and interchange boxes. Building upgrades, storage shed, scoreboard, an expanded car park and new security fencing were also part of the facility's improvements, which were completed in June 2012. The facility was officially opened in early July 2012.

#### **Challenges in 2011–12: Sport and Recreation – Facilities**

1. Maintaining an effective ground maintenance program for Territory Government owned and leased facilities in unpredictable weather conditions.
2. Ensuring all facilities are maintained to meet international standards for the 2013 Arafura Games.
3. Ensure the sporting bodies to which the Palmerston facilities are leased have the capacity to maintain the facilities as per the lease arrangements.

4. Delivering funding for Stage Two of the three-year commitments to Freds Pass Reserve for sports facility infrastructure was not released as Stage One projects were behind schedule. Stage Two and Three funding is scheduled for release in 2012–13.

#### **Future Priorities in 2012–13: Sport and Recreation – Facilities**

1. Deliver and complete Stage Two and Three of the Territory Government's three year commitment to Freds Pass Reserve for the upgrade of sports facility infrastructure by providing grant funding.
2. Monitor the grant and assistance provided to Squash NT for the construction of an international 12 court squash facility in Darwin. The facility is to be completed in early 2012–13.
3. Complete site works for the Litchfield swimming pool. To achieve this, associated planning approvals and Aboriginal Area Protection Authority clearances are required.

## Output: Events and Engagement

This Output is responsible for the delivery and support of national and international sporting events in the Territory and provides strong community engagement programs to promote positive lifestyle messages.

### Performance Measures: Sport and Recreation – Events and Engagement

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Actual	11–12 Estimate	11–12 Actual	12–13 Budget
National and international events held in the Territory	10	13	13	7	9 <sup>1</sup>	8
Major community engagement programs	2	6	7	4	4 <sup>2</sup>	8 <sup>3</sup>

#### Explanatory Notes to the Table

- National and international sporting events held in the Territory in 2011–12:
  - Pro Tour Australian Professional Tennis event 3–11 September 2011, in Alice Springs;
  - Pro Tour Australian Professional Tennis event 17–25 September 2011, in Darwin;
  - Pan Hellenic Games 29 September - 2 October 2011, in Darwin;
  - Super 15s Rugby Union trial match, University of Canberra Brumbies v Western Force, February 2012, in Darwin;
  - Australian Football League National Australia Bank Cup Challenge game, Port Adelaide v Richmond, February 2012, in Alice Springs;
  - Australian Football League Premiership season game, Port Adelaide v Richmond, May 2012 in Darwin;
  - Australian Football League Premiership season game, Port Adelaide v Melbourne, July 2011 in Darwin;
  - National Rugby League Premiership match, Sydney Roosters v North Queensland Cowboys, April 2012 in Darwin; and
  - Women's National Basketball League, West Coast Waves v Australian Institute of Sport, February 2012, in Alice Springs.

The following events were not forecast to occur when the 2011–12 estimates were produced, but negotiations were finalised in May 2011 and the events took place in 2011–12:

  - Women's National Basketball League; and
  - Pan Hellenic Games.
- Major community engagement programs were part of all major events agreements and included coaching clinics, visits to schools, visits to regional communities and visits to Royal Darwin Hospital. Visiting teams for major events that conducted these engagement activities were:
  - Super 15s Rugby Union trial match, Brumbies v Western Force – Darwin;
  - Australian Football League premierships May and July games – Darwin;
  - National Rugby League Telstra Premiership game Roosters v Cowboys – Darwin; and
  - Women's Basketball League West Coast Waves v Australian Institute of Sport – Alice Springs.
- The following community engagement activities are planned for 2012–13:
  - Super 15s Rugby Union trial match involving the Brumbies, in Darwin;
  - Australian Football League premierships match, May, in Darwin;
  - Australian Football League premierships match, July, in Darwin;
  - Indigenous All Stars Australian Football League match, in Alice Springs;
  - Australian Cricket Team Camp, August, in Darwin; and
  - Arafura Games May, in Darwin.

### Key Achievements in 2011–12: Sport and Recreation – Events and Engagement

1. Negotiated the transfer of the National Rugby League (NRL) match from a pre-season game to a Telstra Premiership match between the Roosters and the Cowboys in Darwin. More than 10 000 spectators attended the match, which was the final of a three year agreement with the NRL. A similar format for future games is currently being discussed with the NRL.
2. Held the Women's National Basketball League (WNBL) match between the West Coast Waves and the Australian Institute of Sport in Alice Springs. The match was a successful engagement process with the combination of two events: Hoops 4 Health and WNBL matches with approximately 800 spectators attending the combined events.
3. Developed and implemented integrated community engagement activities for all major events agreements and for some lesser events, which includes activities to promote positive lifestyle messages. Activities must be undertaken by a sport for funding to be released.
4. Held the Pan Hellenic Games in September–October 2011, which successfully brought communities together and delivered a strong cultural component with their sports program. The Pan Hellenic Games comprised athletics, basketball, football, golf, judo, swimming, taekwondo and tennis.
5. Reviewed the 2011 Arafura Games to assist in the planning for the 2013 Arafura Games. The review included an extensive stakeholder survey and provided recommendations for the operations of future Arafura Games.

### Challenges in 2011–12: Sport and Recreation – Events and Engagement

1. Negotiating with the National Rugby League and the Sydney Roosters for the Territory Government to host a Telstra Premiership match, in particular sponsorship and broadcasting rights.
2. Managing a highly successful Women's National Basketball League match in Alice Springs remotely from Darwin.
3. Providing event management support to the Pan Hellenic Games, as an addition to the planned events schedule.
4. Developing systems to ensure the knowledge held by temporary Arafura Games managers and staff is preserved.
5. Managing agreements with sports to ensure all agreed community engagement activities are delivered in a professional and timely fashion.

### Future Priorities in 2012–13: Sport and Recreation – Events and Engagement

1. Host the 2013 Arafura Games in Darwin with a strong local, interstate and international contingent and support from Territorians in the form of volunteers and sponsors.
2. Host a successful Indigenous All Stars AFL match in Alice Springs which includes a cultural element and focused community engagement activities.
3. Continue developing systems to manage all agreed community engagement activities.
4. Develop a central register to include all events, parties involved with events, obligations of the parties and event agreements.
5. Finalise a cost-revenue model for a three-year agreement with National Rugby League to host premiership matches in the Territory.

## Government Business Division: 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. A key responsibility of both parks is to showcase the Northern Territory's unique flora and fauna in a natural environment that is inviting, educational, interactive and interesting for the visiting public.

Territory Wildlife Parks contributes to achievement of Government priorities through supporting regional development and tourism, showcasing the biodiversity of the Northern Territory, inspiring action through education for the protection and conservation of the natural environment, and facilitating cultural expression that contributes to the development of involved, healthy and creative communities.

This Government Business Division's budget in 2011–12 was \$13.6 million.

There are two Business Lines within this Government Business Division:

- Alice Springs Desert Park; and
- Territory Wildlife Park.

## Business Line: Alice Springs Desert Park

The Alice Springs Desert Park provides a quality experience to visitors through the presentation of flora and fauna in a variety of natural Central Australian habitats and ecosystems. The Park provides high quality education programs for visitors that focus on Central Australian habitats, flora, fauna and ecosystems. The Park contributes to conservation outcomes by breeding threatened species.

### Performance Measures Business Line: Alice Springs Desert Park

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Actual	11–12 Estimate	11–12 Actual	12–13 Budget
Visitors	74 702	77 295	63 270	53 000	60 353 <sup>1</sup>	53 000
Key new visitor experiences	2	5	4	4	5 <sup>2</sup>	6 <sup>3</sup>
Threatened species breeding programs <sup>4</sup>	5	4	4	5	6	5
Visitor satisfaction <sup>5</sup>	96%	98%	92%	95%	100%	95%

### Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. These figures represent an increase from what was estimated but a decrease from the 2010–11 visitor numbers. In recent years the Alice Springs Desert Park has experienced an overall decrease in annual visitation. The global financial crisis and strong Australian dollar have been attributed to the decrease.
2. Key new visitor experiences included:
  - Developed and delivered Australian Curriculum Linked School programs;
  - Commenced Stories in the Park;
  - Commenced Music in the Park;
  - Commenced Up Close Encounters in May 2012;

- Commenced offering educational desert themed birthday parties; and
  - Built a shaded sand pit and provided eco-toys for use.
3. Key new visitor experience in 2012–13 are expected to include:
    1. Alice Springs Desert Park Courtyard sessions – regular afternoon music in the Courtyard provided by local and visiting artists;
    2. Stories in the Park – fortnightly story time for toddlers and preschool children delivered by volunteers and library partners;
    3. Lingo lunch time – fortnightly Indigenous language sessions at the café delivered by partners and staff;
    4. Living Traditions – visitors can watch groups of local artists sharing skills across generations (trial July–September);
    5. Annual inma (Arrente terminology for cultural song and dance) based on the care of the animals in the Park’s collection; and
    6. Evening event/activity to bridge gap between day experience and Nocturnal tour (e.g. include cafe open/movie in cinema).
  4. Six threatened species breeding programs were completed:
    1. Stick-nest Rats – 17 successfully bred with some sent to Adelaide Zoo, Halls Gap Zoo and Cleland Wildlife Park;
    2. Western Quoll – two successfully bred;
    3. Red-tailed Phascogale – 16 successfully bred;
    4. Floodplain Skink – two successfully bred, the first time this species has been bred in captivity;
    5. Bilby – one female was unsuccessful, because this female was too close to the end of her reproductive life; and
    6. Mala – Four successfully bred.
  5. Visitor satisfaction was measured through monthly visitor surveys, with all of the 215 surveys returned rating their experience as excellent or good.

### Key Achievements in 2011–12: Alice Springs Desert Park

1. Provided one hour learning in context programs to 261 local and remote students, 194 of which were Indigenous students. These programs support Australian Curriculum general capabilities in the domains of personal and social capabilities and ethical behaviour and the cross curriculum priorities of Indigenous histories and cultures and sustainability.
2. Provided free of charge entry to 1 952 Northern Territory School Students.
3. Supported volunteers to deliver monthly Stories in the Park from January 2012 to promote the National Year of Reading for 86 local toddlers and six special needs students.
4. Commenced Music in the Park, monthly afternoon music sessions with local and visiting artists in the courtyard co-managed between the Park and community members.
5. Tried Up Close Encounters over the Christmas school holidays to test the market and refine the product. The program commenced bi-weekly from May 2012 and visitors could pay to have a photo taken standing next to an iconic desert bird with the MacDonnell Ranges as the backdrop.
6. Commenced offering educational, interactive and fun desert themed birthday parties targeted at three age groups: 2–5, 6–9 and 9–14. The birthday child chooses the theme and activities from a menu of art, craft, physical or intellectual games.
7. Built a sandpit adjacent to the Park cafe so that children can play independently while parents and carers relax and take in the view.
8. Continued developing a working relationship with Traditional Owners at Ipolera, south-west of Alice Springs, for the Tjilpa Back to Country Project. A site was identified under the guidance of Traditional Owners.

9. Completed a biodiversity survey funded by Taronga Zoo and formed a partnership with Friends of the Desert Park to manage external funds and auspice the steering committee.
10. Commenced one community garden through the Power Plants program at Ntaria (Hermannsburg).

### **Challenges in 2011–12: Alice Springs Desert Park**

1. Decline in visitor numbers to Central Australia has resulted in a need to further increase ways in which the local community can work with the Park and to develop innovative strategies to reflect the uniqueness of the Park and increase tourist numbers.

### **Future Priorities in 2012–13: Alice Springs Desert Park**

1. Develop a new future direction for the Park to reinvigorate its position in the community and within the tourism sector.
2. Creation of four new community gardens through the Power Plants program.
3. Continue to develop opportunities to increase Indigenous employment with the Park. This will be achieved by working in partnership with the Territory Government's Department of Education to position the Park as a centre for excellence in Indigenous education, which will boost attendance and participation rates of town and remote Indigenous students.
4. Create an activity for visitors to bridge the current gap of one and a half hours between the Park's day experience and the Nocturnal Tour.
5. Outsource cafe operators.



## Business Line: Territory Wildlife Park

The Territory Wildlife Park provides a quality experience to visitors through the presentation of flora and fauna in a variety of natural Top End habitats and ecosystems. This includes providing high quality interpretive and educational programs for visitors to the Park and developing and promoting conservation strategies and initiatives that influence community behaviour towards the Territory environment. The Park will continue to develop programs to promote the conservation of threatened species.

### Performance Measures Business Line: Territory Wildlife Park

Key Deliverables	09–10 Actual	10–11 Actual	11–12 Estimate	11–12 Actual	12–13 Budget
Visitors	64 500	59 500	63 000	54 000 <sup>1</sup>	55 000
Community groups involved <sup>2</sup>	1	6	10	11	10
Education providers involved	1	3	4	5 <sup>3</sup>	5
Biodiversity conservation programs	9	3	4	6 <sup>4</sup>	5
Visitor satisfaction <sup>5</sup>	95%	93%	95%	95%	95%

### Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Visitation has been negatively affected by a continued decline of interstate visitors which can be linked to a slow recovery from the Global Financial Crisis and the financial uncertainty in the European markets. Tourism NT anticipates a modest visitor number increase of only 1.4 per cent in 2012–13 which will continue to pose a challenge for the Territory Wildlife Park (the Park) to increase visitation.
2. The Park is emphasising community involvement through working with a broad range of community groups. These are:
  1. 1st Berrimah Scout Group;
  2. Top End Native Plant Society;
  3. Darwin Correctional Services Living Skills Unit teams;

4. Australian Defence Force Army 2nd Cavalry;
  5. Contiki Holidays – Student Ambassador Program;
  6. Community involvement programmed days;
  7. Bush Babies weekly walk program - a midwife attends the walk once per month to undertake mothers and baby health checks;
  8. Kungarakan Culture and Education Association;
  9. Art Community including the gallery Cross Cultural Art Exchange;
  10. Frog Watch; and
  11. Greening Australia / Land for Wildlife.
3. The Park continues to work in collaboration with education providers through maximising its value as a venue to compliment curriculum. Providers included:
    1. Charles Darwin University – Certificate IV and Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management;
    2. Darwin High School – Year 10 special education held a supervised workplace experience;
    3. Kormilda College – Junior Rangers Program;
    4. Berry Springs School – various projects to compliment the science curriculum and Berry Springs School and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) trialled a field study program based on a comparative study of ant populations at the school and at the park; and
    5. The Agency's Parks and Wildlife Service Community Education Unit – Be Crocwise education campaign.
  4. The Park has been involved with the following Biodiversity Conservation programs:
    - Plight of the Freshwater Sawfish: This is an ongoing display which raises issues surrounding the plight of the critically endangered Freshwater Sawfish, locally, nationally and internationally.

The project is a joint collaboration between the Park, the Territory Government's Department of Resources, Project Sawfish-Murdoch University, the MegaFishes project run by Dr Zeb Hogan from Nebraska USA and National Geographic. Northern Quoll Cane Toad aversion studies: The Park is a linkage partner with Sydney University under the supervision of Dr Jonathan Webb.

- Pale Field Rats: The Park worked on this project with Charles Darwin University (CDU) and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Pale Field rats were used as an analogue species to research predator response behaviour. The Park bred the rats and assisted in their relocation to Wongalara Station where CDU and WCS supervised the research.
  - Oenpelli Python: In collaboration with Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation a project to establish the sustainable use of the Oenpelli Python has commenced. Relevant permits for the collection of mating pairs of the python have recently been approved after eight years of developing the project with a number of partners in the wildlife industry. The Park's role will be to write husbandry manuals for the breeding and care of the pythons.
5. Visitor satisfaction is measured through visitor surveys, number of complaints received and number of praise comments through a number of sources.

### Key Achievements in 2011–12: Territory Wildlife Park

1. Completed the \$1.9M major repairs and maintenance program at the Park which included significant works to the Monsoon Forest pathways and handrails, aquarium internal structural repair work and replacement of the Park's two-way radio communications system.
2. Established and conducted the Artists in the Park program in partnership with the Agency's Arts NT. One of the artists involved subsequently won a national award for their drawing of the Park's dingoes.

3. Created new experiences for visitors with an opportunity for families to camp overnight at the Park, a new Bush Tucker themed camp for school aged children and new daily animal encounters.
4. Expanded the Park's volunteer programs which have resulted in an increase in the number of community involvement days at the Park.
5. Continued to build the educational and interactive capacity of the Park. This includes an ongoing program of developing educational programs with Berry Springs Primary School using the Park as an outdoor classroom. This program will assist to develop an educational framework and approach that can be utilised by other remote and rural schools.
6. Increased focus on incorporating more Indigenous and interactive content into the interpretive displays throughout the Park. This has included:
  - The commissioning of sculptural and artistic elements such as the full sized wall artwork of a stainless steel Saltwater Crocodile;
  - A collection of jellyfish created out of fishing line and suspended from the ceiling of the aquarium; and
  - A life-sized sculpture of a Flat-backed turtle made from ghost nets and Indigenous artworks on canvas depicting stories about Crocodile awareness and safety.
7. Supported the capacity to increase Indigenous involvement within the Park and conducted cross cultural training with 53 staff members. From this, staff are actively engaged in supporting new programs which include:
  - Indigenous cultural display at the main entry station;
  - Access to the Park by NT Indigenous Tours;
  - Improving cultural interpretation throughout the Park; and
  - Establishing an Indigenous Artist in the Park Program.

8. Established a Territory Wildlife Park Facebook page in January 2012, which enhances the Park's online engagement with the community and provides a digital tool for direct communication with stakeholders. Since operation the page has received over 400 'likes' with positive interaction from the public.

### **Challenges in 2011–12: Territory Wildlife Park**

1. Creating strategies to address the continuing decline in interstate and international visitors which hasn't been aided by the slow recovery from the global financial crisis, a strong Australian dollar and more recently the European financial market situation.
2. Establishing a low cost business model to support the management and operations of the on-site cafe/souvenir shop by a private provider.

### **Future Priorities in 2012–13: Territory Wildlife Park**

1. Develop a marketing and communications strategy to increase visitor numbers to the Park.
2. Implement an Indigenous Artist in the Park program to develop cultural tourism at the Park.
3. Manage the contract for the private operation of the on-site cafe/souvenir service and collection of gate entry fees by a private provider.