

Department of
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

2019-20

ANNUAL REPORT





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Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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LETTER TO THE MINISTER

The Hon. Eva Lawler MLA
Minister for Environment
Parliament House
State Square Darwin NT 0800

Dear Minister,

I am pleased to present you with the 2019-20 Annual Report of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, which has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of section 28 of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 1993* and section 12 of the *Financial Management Act 1995*.

Pursuant to my responsibilities as the Accountable Officer under the Public Sector Employment and Management Act, the Financial Management Act and the *Information Act 2002*, I advise that to the best of my knowledge and belief:

- proper records of all transactions affecting the Department of Environment and Natural Resources are kept, and all employees under my control observe the provisions of the Financial Management Act, its Regulations and applicable Treasurer's Directions
- procedures in the department afford proper internal control, and these procedures are recorded in the Accounting and Property Manual, which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Management Act
- there is no indication of fraud, malpractice, major breach of legislation or delegation, major error in, or omission from, the accounts and records
- in accordance with section 15 of the Financial Management Act, the internal audit capacity was adequate and the results of all internal audit matters were reported to me
- the financial statements included in this annual report have been prepared from proper accounts and records and are in accordance with the Treasurer's Directions
- all Employment Instructions issued by the Commissioner for Public Employment have been satisfied
- in respect to my responsibilities under section 131 of the Information Act, processes have been implemented to achieve compliance with the archives and records management provisions prescribed in Part 9 of the Information Act.

Yours sincerely,



Jo Townsend
Chief Executive Officer
30 September 2020

PURPOSE

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources annual report provides a record of the department's functions and performance for 2019-20 and progress against its strategic goals and priorities.

The annual report complies with annual reporting requirements in the Public Sector Employment and Management Act, the Financial Management Act and the Information Act.

OUR AUDIENCE

The annual report provides information about the department's activities and achievements for the 2019-20 financial year. It is tabled by the Minister in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, primarily as an accounting and reporting mechanism for the department's income and financial expenditure for the year ending 30 June 2020.

The report provides information to other government agencies and the public information about the department's range, purpose and outcomes during the year. It also formally acknowledges the achievements of its employees.

REPORT STRUCTURE

The report is made up of five key sections:

1. Our department
The organisation's purpose, primary functions and objectives.
2. Our achievements
The department's output performance in 2019-20 and results against measures published in Budget Paper No. 3.
3. Our people
An overview of the department's people, human resource management and legislative requirements and formal acknowledgement of our employees' achievements.
4. Corporate governance
The department's corporate governance model and performance.
5. Financial reports
The department's financial statements and related notes.

This annual report is published online at www.denr.nt.gov.au

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OUR DEPARTMENT

OVERVIEW

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources provides natural resource monitoring, management and advice, including scientific assessment of flora, fauna, land and water assets, and the allocation and management of these resources to enable their sustainable use.

The agency also provides assessment, monitoring and compliance support, and services on behalf of the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) to support environmentally sustainable development.

To be effective, we need a strong partnership approach. It is through partnerships with landholders, across government and with our external stakeholders, that we will meet our priorities in managing our natural resources sustainably, for the benefit of all Territorians.

OUR REGIONS

The department operates from offices throughout the Territory, including in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Acacia Hills, Batchelor and Darwin. We deliver natural resource management services and advice to landholders across the 1,350,000km² of the Northern Territory.

Through our presence in the regions we maintain strong connections with rural and remote communities to deliver effective consultation, planning and services. The Acacia Hills, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Batchelor and Alice Springs teams appreciate the value of partnerships with local stakeholders. They are proud of the relationships they have established and continue to strengthen them with regular and meaningful engagement.

Darwin

The Goyder building in Palmerston is the central location for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The department also had staff based at Tannadice Street (Winnellie), the Herbarium Building (Palmerston), CSIRO Building (Berrimah), Arnhemica House (Parap), and Bushfire Headquarters and Operations Centre (Acacia Hills and Batchelor).

A total of 262 staff are located in the Darwin region across all divisions.

Katherine region

Our regional office in Katherine hosts 12 staff in the Water Resources, Bushfires NT, Rangelands and Executive divisions. Staff are based in the Giles Street building.

The Katherine region covers some 370,000km² and supports a range of major industries including mining, pastoralists, agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

Barkly region

Our regional office in Tennant Creek hosts 1 position in the Rangelands division, and is based at the Leichardt Street building.

It services the Barkly region which covers around 322,500km².

Central Australia region

In Alice Springs our department employs 26 staff across all our divisions which are based at the Arid Zone Research Institute and Elders Street Alice Springs.

The Central Australia region covers an area of 546,000km².

STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-20

Our vision

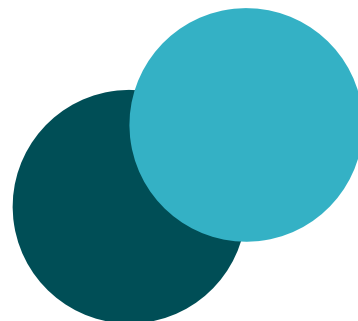
The Northern Territory's land and water resources are managed sustainably for the benefit of all Territorians, informed by the best available science.

Our purpose

Provide advice and support for the sustainable development of the Northern Territory's land and water and conservation of its unique native flora and fauna.

GOALS	STRATEGIES
1 Strategically improve scientific and community knowledge and understanding of water, soils, landscapes and biodiversity to better inform adaptive and responsive management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake strategic integrated assessments of ground and surface water systems, land resources and biodiversity values to inform management and de-risk investment in regional development. Implement robust monitoring systems to track and report on the health of the Territory's biodiversity, the condition of the Territory's rangelands, the health of Darwin Harbour and inland waterways, and the quality of the Darwin airshed. Develop and implement an online information strategy to improve community understanding of the Territory's natural resources.
2 Advise on the effective planning, allocation, conservation and use of the Northern Territory's natural resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement water allocation planning in conjunction with water policy reform. Ensure that outputs from the Mapping the Future project inform natural resource allocation planning and decisions. Provide the best available information on the Territory's natural resources to support the NT Government's Economic Development Framework. Develop and maintain integrated information systems for natural resource data and information accessible to stakeholders, land managers and the community. Support the sustainable development of the pastoral estate through contemporary pastoral legislation.
3 Develop and deliver robust and transparent assessment and regulation that balance the development of the Northern Territory with effective protection of the Northern Territory's unique environmental assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reform, streamline and increase transparency of environmental regulatory systems in the Territory. Ensure that robust, evidence-based advice relating to natural resources informs all environmental impact assessments and approvals. Support the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority to reduce the impacts of waste and pollution on the Territory's environment. Ensure mining and petroleum activities are subject to the Water Act. Support and engage with stakeholders and the community on managing risks and mitigating the impact of waste on the environment.

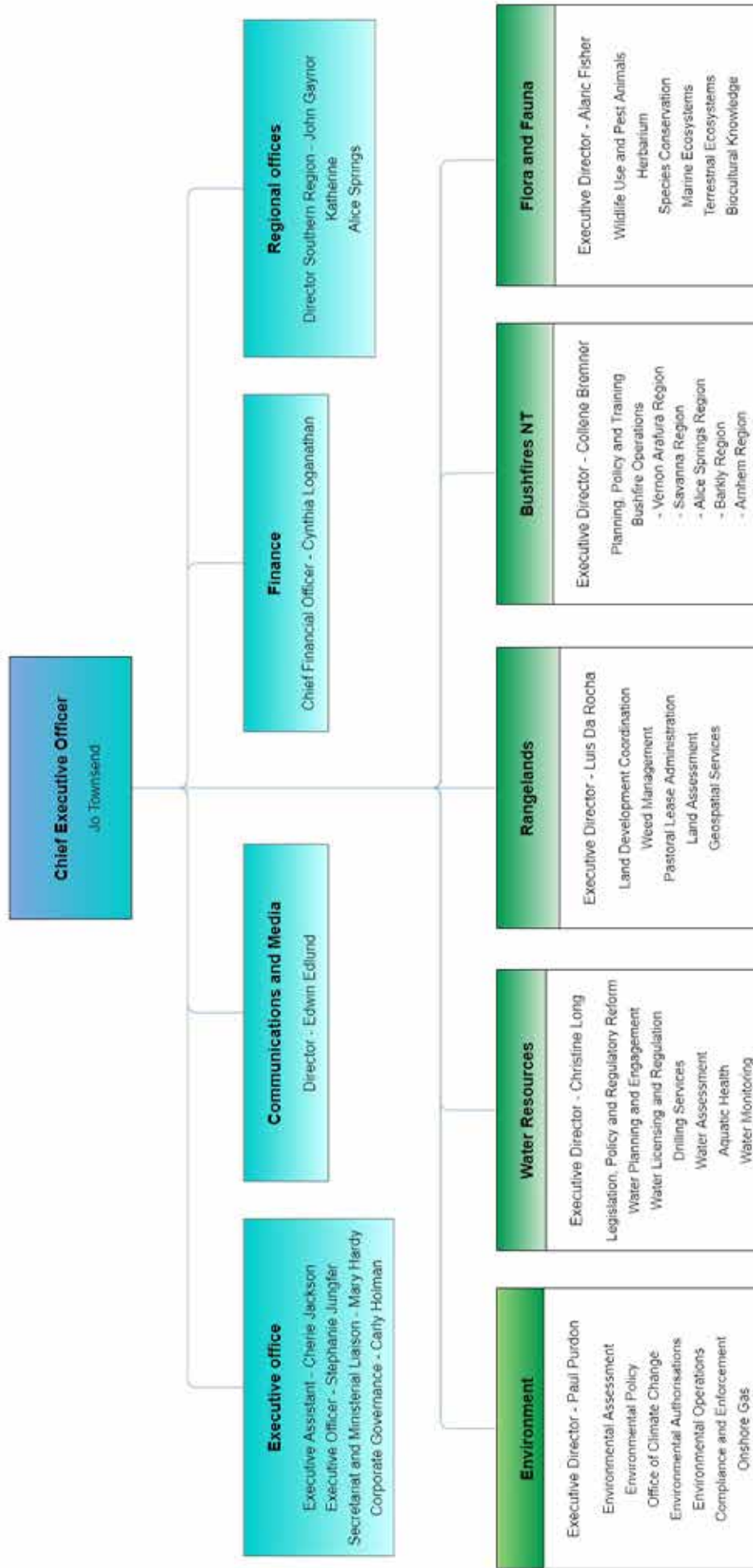




GOALS	STRATEGIES
<p>4 Foster and sustain community participation from all regions of the Territory in sustainable natural resource use and management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and maintain engagement and partnerships with stakeholders and the community to leverage knowledge and better manage the Territory's natural resources. • Support Aboriginal rangers and communities to protect the environment and create jobs. • Establish an Aboriginal Carbon Unit to deliver carbon abatement and economic development on Aboriginal land. • Implement a Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserves policy and methodology to give Aboriginal landholders increased opportunity to access water resources for economic development. • Develop digital information products to better inform the community about contentious natural resource management issues. • Develop a Coastal and Marine Management Strategy that protects our valued coast and marine environments while encouraging sustainable development and use by Territorians. • Establish the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee.
<p>5 Manage and mitigate threats to regional communities and our natural ecosystems and native flora and fauna through shared responsibilities and partnerships.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support land managers to reduce the impacts of fire, feral animals and weeds on productive and natural systems. • Progress a strategic approach to manage the increased risk of bushfire in the rural area caused by grassy weeds. • Build community understanding of, and capacity to mitigate, the impacts of wildfire, weeds and feral animals. • Provide flood monitoring and advice in consultation with other agencies for major 'at risk' communities.
<p>6 Maintain an organisation with the capacity and capability to deliver effective services and that nurtures its human resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspire and support a workplace culture that is collaborative, respectful and accountable. • Build and enhance strategic leadership across the agency. • Implement targeted development programs to 'grow our own', with an emphasis on succession planning. • Provide a safe working environment and promote safe practices in both office and field operations. • Continue to improve business processes and streamline internal systems.



OUR STRUCTURE



GOVERNANCE BOARD

The Governance Board is the department's principal planning and decision making body on corporate governance matters. The Governance Board includes representatives from all the department's output groups and regions.

Below is the Governance Board membership as at 30 June 2020.



Jo Townsend
Chief Executive Officer

Jo is the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources which is a position she has held since December 2016.

As the Chief Executive Officer, Jo is responsible for leading the agency to deliver natural resource monitoring, assessment and management of natural resource assets across the Northern Territory, including advice and management on flora and fauna, water resources, bushfire mitigation, pests and weeds and the Northern Territory's pastoral estate. The department is also responsible for assessment, monitoring and compliance and support services on behalf of the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA).

Jo has more than 25 years of experience in the Northern Territory public sector, including 16 years in executive leadership roles and has been responsible for leading and reforming a range of diverse portfolio areas such as child protection, alcohol and other drugs and family and youth services.

Jo has a Bachelor of Arts and a Graduate Diploma in Applied Psychology.



Paul Purdon
Executive Director Environment Protection

Paul has been the Executive Director, Environment Protection since October 2016, where he provides leadership to the department's environmental assessment and regulation functions, including support for the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA).

Paul's responsibilities include the oversight of the environmental regulation of the onshore petroleum industry. Paul has 16 years of experience in the Northern Territory environment department in a range of policy, environmental assessment and regulatory positions.

Prior to moving to the Northern Territory, Paul spent 4 years working on environmental policy with the Australian Environment Department and the Australian Greenhouse Office.

Paul has a Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and Bachelor of Letters (Environmental Studies).



Alaric Fisher
Executive Director Flora and Fauna

Alaric has been with the department and its precursors since 1996 and has been Executive Director Flora and Fauna since 2011. Alaric also acted as Executive Director Environment Protection in 2018.

Alaric provides strategic leadership and policy advice on matters relating to the biodiversity of the Northern Territory, ecologically sustainable development, wildlife use and feral animals.

Alaric has a PhD from Charles Darwin University and has worked as a conservation biologist in the Northern Territory for more than 28 years. In that time, he has covered a broad range of fields including wildlife inventory, biodiversity monitoring, conservation planning and environmental impact assessment.



Christine Long
Executive Director Water Resources

Christine was appointed to the role of Executive Director Water Resources in March 2018.

Christine acted as the Executive Director Rangelands in 2017.

Christine has lived in Darwin since 1988 and worked for the CSIRO as a horticultural scientist prior to joining the Northern Territory Government in 1990. In the NT she has worked primarily in pastoral and land administration, land use planning, primary industries and natural resource management.

Christine has a Bachelor of Agricultural Science, a Masters in Public Sector Leadership and a Masters in Economic and Regional Development.



Collene Bremner
Executive Director Bushfires NT

Collene joined the department in December 2016 as the Executive Director Bushfires NT.

Collene has worked in the Northern Territory Public Service since 1998 in a number of leadership roles across government with over 15 years' experience in an emergency management leadership role. Collene's extensive career consists of appointments such as chair of the Australian and New Zealand Emergency Management Recovery Sub-Committee, the Northern Territory representative on the Australian and New Zealand Emergency Management Committee, National Aerial Firefighting Centre and the Australasian Fire & Emergency Service Authorities Council.

Collene has a Graduate Diploma of Public Sector Executive Management.



Luis Da Rocha
Executive Director Rangelands

Luis was appointed to the role of Executive Director Rangelands in February 2019, a position he has held since 2016.

Luis provides strategic leadership and direction in implementing Government objectives for the economic development and sustainable use of the Territory's rangelands and broader natural environment. Luis was born and raised in Darwin and has over 17 years of experience in the Northern Territory Public Service, including leading diverse and geographically dispersed teams.

Luis has a Bachelor of Arts and Graduate Certificate in Public Sector Management.





Stephanie Jungfer
Executive Officer

Stephanie has been in the Executive Officer position since December 2016. The role provides support to the Chief Executive Officer and Executive Directors across their broad portfolio responsibilities.

Stephanie initially joined the department within the then Water Directorate, having previously worked within the Utilities Commission of the Northern Territory and Department of Treasury and Finance in a policy capacity.

Stephanie has a Bachelor of Economics and a background in banking and finance.



John Gaynor
Regional Director South

John represents the department in the regions, ensuring an integrated approach across programs, assists with developing and implementing new policies, and deals with emerging issues in the regions.

John has lived in the Territory for over 25 years and during that time has occupied executive management positions in the Commonwealth, Northern Territory and Local Governments.

He has a Bachelor of Social Work and a Diploma of Applied Management.



Cynthia Loganathan
Chief Financial Officer

Cynthia has been the Chief Financial Officer of the department since January 2018, having been the Director of Finance prior to that. She has worked within the public sector for the last 15 years, and also for some time prior to relocating to Brisbane and Sydney where she worked in senior roles within the superannuation field.

Cynthia provides advice in respect of financial and budgetary matters relating to the department and to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and directions.

Cynthia is a Certified Practising Accountant, with a Bachelor of Business in Accounting.



LEGISLATION ADMINISTERED

The department is responsible for administering 32 pieces of legislation, including 19 Acts and 13 pieces of subordinate legislation. This legislation provides an overriding direction for many department functions and is the foundation of a number of output groups. A review process ensures the legislation remains contemporary and relevant to community expectations and incorporates best practice in the areas it governs.

Bushfires Management Act 2016

- Bushfires Management (General) Regulations 2017
- Bushfires Management (Volunteer Bushfire Brigades) Regulations 2006

Environmental Assessment Act 1982 (replaced by the **Environment Protection Act 2019** 28 June 2020)

- Environmental Assessment Administrative Procedures 1984

Environment Protection Act 2019

- Environment Protection Regulations 2020

Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Act 2011

- Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Regulations 2011

Environmental Offences and Penalties Act 1996

- Environmental Offences and Penalties Regulations 2011

Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement Act 2009

Litter Act 1972

Marine Pollution Act 1999

- Marine Pollution Regulations 2003

National Environment Protection Council (Northern Territory) Act 1994

Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act 2012

Nuclear Waste Transport, Storage and Disposal (Prohibition) Act 2004

- Nuclear Waste Transport, Storage and Disposal (Prohibition) Regulations 2019

Pastoral Land Act 1992 (except provisions about Aboriginal community living areas)

- Pastoral Land Regulations 1992

Petroleum Act 1984

Part V, Division 2 and provisions relating to environmental regulation of exploration for and production of petroleum

- Petroleum (Environment) Regulations 2016

Planning Act 1999

Land clearing approvals on unzoned land (under delegation from the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics)

Soil Conservation and Land Utilisation Act 1969

Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976

Part IV, Divisions 1–5

Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998

- Waste Management and Pollution Control (Administration) Regulations 1998
- Environment Protection (National Pollutant Inventory) Objective 2004

Water Act 1992

- Water Regulations 1992

Water Efficiency Labelling Standards (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2014

Weeds Management Act 2001

- Weeds Management Regulations 2006

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



LEGISLATIVE CHANGES IN 2019-20

Overview

The department has continued with its legislative reform program during 2019-20. Of particular note is the passage and commencement of the new *Environment Protection Act 2019* and associated regulations, replacing the former *Environmental Assessment Act 1982*.

Water Act 1992

Water Legislation Miscellaneous Amendments Bill 2019

Commenced 25 September 2019.

The Water Legislation Miscellaneous Amendments Bill 2019 introduced into the Legislative Assembly in March 2019, provided for amendments to the *Water Act 1992* and *Water Regulations 1992*. It addressed technical irregularities and administrative inefficiencies, including unintended impediments to trading identified in administration of the water legislation.

Water Further Amendment Bill 2019

The Water Further Amendment Bill 2019 was introduced into the Legislative Assembly in August 2019 to provide for amendments to the *Water Act* to support the Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserves Policy Framework approved by Government in October 2017. The Bill was passed in the Legislative Assembly on 16 October 2019 and commenced post reporting date.

Marine Pollution Act 1999

Marine Pollution Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

Commenced 10 March 2020

The Marine Pollution Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 introduced into the Legislative Assembly in October 2019, provided for amendments to the *Marine Pollution Act 1999* to address identified deficiencies in the legislation to enable Government to pursue offences against ships suspected of causing marine pollution in Territory coastal waters and protect the Territory's marine environment.

Environment Protection Act 2019

Commenced 28 June 2020.

The Environment Protection Bill 2019 introduced into the Legislative Assembly in May 2019, established an Act to protect the environment of the Northern Territory. It aimed to promote sustainable development by establishing a contemporary environmental impact assessment and approval system, based on best practice principles. The Act is supported by the new Environment Protection Regulations 2020.

The new legislation:

- establishes a new environmental impact assessment process for proposed actions that have the potential for a significant impact on the environment
- introduces a new environmental approval system requiring an environmental approval issued by the Environment Minister.
- establishes clear pathways for proposed activities to enter the environmental impact assessment process
- increases transparency and public scrutiny on decision making and promotes early engagement with potentially affected communities to ensure social licence for development
- introduces judicial review of decisions made by the NT EPA and by the Environment Minister in relation to environmental approvals
- provides enforcement and compliance tools and clearly articulates offences



DIVISIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Flora and Fauna

Provides scientific assessment and monitoring of the Territory's native flora and fauna, and delivery of policy advice and support for the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife and management of feral animals.

This output is responsible for:

- assessing and monitoring the Territory's native flora and fauna
- assisting land owners to manage the threat to our unique flora and fauna
- supporting and managing the sustainable use of wildlife
- providing robust, evidence-based advice to government, industry and the community relating to the biodiversity of the Northern Territory

Services are provided from Darwin and Alice Springs.

KEY DELIVERABLES	2016-17 ACTUAL	2017-18 ACTUAL	2018-19 ACTUAL	2019-20 BUDGET	2019-20 ACTUAL
Spatial biodiversity records	2.45m	2.9m	2.89m	2.9m	3.8m
Biodiversity information requests met	2,400	2,400	2,150	2,200	2,235
Active inventory, monitoring and applied research programs	34	34	30	28	28
Management programs in place for sustainable wildlife management	6	8	8	9	9

Variance analysis actual vs original budget

Spatial biodiversity records:

- The number of spatial biodiversity records for the Territory is much larger than budgeted, as we were able to capture a large number of additional NT records from other information sources, such as the Atlas of Living Australia, as well as adding significant plant and animal records from recent work undertaken by the division.

Performance achievements in 2019-20

Completed

- Developed the SREBA Framework, a detailed guide for undertaking a Strategic Regional Environmental and Baseline Assessment (SREBA) in the Northern Territory, in line with the recommendations of the Final Report of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing. Published an account of Aboriginal biocultural knowledge of flora and fauna, for the Marrithiyel, Marri Dan and Marramaninjsji country between the Daly and Moyle Rivers in the western Top End.
- Revised the Management Program for Magpie Geese, in collaboration with hunters and other stakeholders. The revised plan incorporates new scientific data and harvest models, provides greater certainty to hunters about future season conditions and supports a growing interest in commercial harvest of magpie geese.
- Completed the annual aerial survey of magpie goose population and nesting rate to inform the conditions for the 2020-21 waterfowl hunting season, in accordance with the new management program.
- Undertook the annual survey of the saltwater crocodile population in the Top End's major rivers, to support the ongoing sustainable harvest of eggs that are the foundation for the Territory's crocodile industry.
- Completed an assessment of the terrestrial and marine biodiversity values of the Gunn Point Peninsula area, which contributed to the publication of the integrated assessment under the Mapping the Future program.
- Completed projects to monitor dolphin populations in Darwin Harbour and adjacent coastal waters, and monitored dugong populations around the Territory coastline, as part of the Ichthys Project Voluntary Offsets Agreement.

- Published two important scientific papers analysing factors underlying patterns of small mammal richness in monsoonal northern Australia. These are the culmination of a large research program and provide important insights into land management methods to address small mammal decline.
- Prepared a gap analysis of environmental information for the Middle Arm Peninsula in Darwin Harbour, and undertook a number of field studies to clarify the occurrence and distribution of threatened species and other important biodiversity values of Middle Arm.
- Partnered with Charles Darwin University, with funding from the National Environmental Science Program (NESP), to successfully develop a method to use environmental DNA (eDNA) to detect and monitor the threatened Gouldian Finch.
- Refining innovative methods for detecting and monitoring wildlife, including the use of motion-detecting cameras, songmeters for frogs and birds, nightvision cameras for bats, and environmental DNA.
- Curating the Northern Territory herbaria (Darwin and Alice Springs) as the authoritative collection of Territory plant specimens, providing plant identification services, and maintaining and updating the FloraNT web portal.
- Delivery of flora and fauna data to national data repositories such as the Atlas of Living Australia and the Australasian Virtual Herbarium.
- Expansion of the collection capacity (10 yr growth), reference collection and identification facility in the Darwin Herbarium.
- Developing proactive conservation strategies for threatened species such as *Typhonium* where there are frequent conflicts with proposed developments.

In progress

- Coordinating of the baseline studies making up a SREBA in the Beetaloo Sub-basin. Baseline studies will be undertaken in the six domains of water; terrestrial ecosystems; aquatic ecosystems; greenhouse gas; environmental health; and social, cultural & economic issues.
- Delivering the fourth round of the Aboriginal Ranger Grants Program, including \$1.43M for 16 new land management projects. The full \$12.1M available under the four year funding program (2017-18 to 2020-21) has now been expended or committed.
- Developing a regional ecosystem map for the Beetaloo Basin and undertaking a targeted survey for selected threatened species in this region, which is contributing to the Australian Government's Geological and Bioregional Assessment program.
- Analysing and reporting the biodiversity values of the Western Davenport region, and continuing field studies of the biodiversity values of the Katherine region, as part of the Mapping the Future program.
- Reviewing the conservation status of plant and animal species listed as threatened under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976*, including collaborating with other Australian jurisdictions to align national threatened species lists.
- Working alongside Aboriginal elders and communities to document and preserve their biocultural knowledge, with work focusing on the Roper/Gulf region.
- Monitoring the status of a number of threatened species in the Northern Territory, and advising and assisting land managers with development of threatened species monitoring in a number of National Parks and Indigenous Protected Areas.
- Working with Traditional Owners, Aboriginal rangers and pastoral managers to restore important Central Australian waterholes for ecological and cultural outcomes.
- Providing authoritative advice on the NT's biodiversity to the Northern Territory Government, land managers, industry, developers and consultants, other stakeholders and the community.
- Undertaking an independent review of the Aboriginal Ranger Grants Program to support and refine an ongoing grants program.
- Evaluating current knowledge and uncertainties about the impacts of savanna burning methodologies and current practices on biodiversity.
- Ongoing research into the patterns of population density and impact of feral cats, working with various Indigenous Protected Areas, National Parks and Darwin City Council.

Future priorities

- Undertaking baseline studies of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems in the Beetaloo Basin as part of a Strategic Regional Environment and Baseline Assessment (SREBA), in response to recommendations of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing.
- Supporting the implementation of the Darwin Harbour Strategy.
- Continuous improvement in making comprehensive data on the Northern Territory's biodiversity readily accessible to external stakeholders.
- Developing suitable guidance material for regulators, industry and land managers, and providing strategic advice regarding biodiversity-related matters, particularly in relation to the implementation of the new Environment Protection Act.
- Revision of the NT Saltwater Crocodile Management Program.
- Engage with the National Environmental Science Program to secure important environmental research within the Northern Territory.
- Delivery of the next phase of the Aboriginal Ranger Grants Program over 2021-2025.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR MAGPIE GOOSE IN THE NT 2020-30

Waterfowl hunting in the Northern Territory (NT) is managed in accordance with the Management Program for the Magpie Goose in the Northern Territory of Australia. The Management Program was last revised in 2009. On the basis of recent dramatic declines in the size of the magpie goose population, as well as the emergence of a commercial take for the species, in 2018 the department decided a review of the Management Program with the goal of having a new Program in place in early 2020.

The development of the new Management Program involved extensive consultation with key stakeholders and was informed by a re-examination of the scientific basis for managing the goose population, incorporating the results of population estimates from aerial surveys over the past decade since the previous Program.

A consultation draft Management Program was developed and released for public comment in October 2019, with the new Management Program released in April 2020.

The 5 principal objectives of the Management Program are to:

1. Conserve and protect Magpie Goose in the NT in its natural habitat.
2. Promote sound management of important areas of habitat to address impacts of current and future threats including climate change.
3. Ensure and support the sustainable use of Magpie Goose populations, including ethical recreational hunting and commercial offtake in accordance with objectives 1 and 2 and the inalienable right of traditional hunting.
4. Minimise economic loss to commercial fruit growers caused by Magpie Goose without adversely impacting on the conservation of the species.
5. Enable ongoing refinement of Magpie Goose management through timely evaluation of management prescriptions and performance with opportunities for stakeholder input.

The new Management Program seeks to minimise future controversy associated with the annual waterfowl hunting season by establishing a fixed length for the season, and setting bag limits linked to transparent thresholds for population size.

The Wildlife Management Program for Magpie Goose is available at:
denr.nt.gov.au/programs-and-strategies/magpie-goose-management

Rangelands

Provides scientific assessment and monitoring of the Northern Territory's land and delivery of extension services, policy advice, and regulation of use and threats to the land resources.

This output is responsible for:

- assessing and monitoring the Territory's land resources
- assisting landholders in managing the threat and impact of weeds

Services are provided from Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

KEY DELIVERABLES	2016-17 ACTUAL	2017-18 ACTUAL	2018-19 ACTUAL	2019-20 BUDGET	2019-20 ACTUAL
Percentage of pastoral estate monitored in the year	24%	27%	22%	20%	15%
Land clearing applications assessed	33	11	18	12	27
Area of land receiving weed extension services (000 km ²)	250	205	200	220	220
Land development proposals assessed	685	677	618	600	536
Soil profile sites described and tested to develop new soil and land resource mapping	679	610	390	425	248

Variance analysis actual vs original budget

Land clearing applications assessed:

- Actual land clearing applications assessed, which are dependent on applications submitted, were 15 higher than original budget.

Land development proposals assessed:

- Land development proposals assessed are dependent on applications submitted.

Soil profile sites described and tested to develop new soil and land resources mapping:

- A decrease in soil profiles tested was due to COVID-19 field work restrictions in place between April and June 2020.

Performance achievements in 2019-20

Completed

- Under Mapping the Future publish remnant vegetation mapping and soil and land suitability mapping in the Gunn Point area.
- Published two soil and land suitability mapping projects covering the lower Keep River and Weaber Plain.
- Updated land use mapping across the Northern Territory providing a contemporary assessment of how the Territory's land resource is being utilised.
- Review and upgrade 1,550 soil profile data points in the Roper River Catchment and input into the Northern Territory Soil and Land Information system (SALInfo).
- Worked with INPEX to publish a series of scientific reports that will underpin the development of an ongoing mangrove monitoring program for Darwin Harbour as part of the Ichthys Project Voluntary Offsets Agreement (IPVOA).
- Applied treatment, for the fourth time, of the quarantine area of Lok Landji Billabong for cabomba in Darwin River.
- Revised the statutory weed management plans for prickly acacia and mesquite.
- Convened the Weed Risk Technical Committee to assess spigelia.
- Formed a statutory Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Committee to develop a draft Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan.
- Raised public awareness through presentations at the TNRM Annual Conference, publication

of the 'Weed All About It' newsletter and 'Weed Patch' in Katherine and launch of a Siam weed media campaign.

- Successfully introduced a Siam weed biocontrol agent - a gall fly developed to treat the established infestation in Queensland.
- Maintained 10 active permits to use weeds under conditions for (research, grazing, disposal, and education).
- Launched the NT WeedMate app which collects weed data points to assist in weed mapping.
- Completed the annual review of the Weeds Branch Compliance Policy.
- Assessed 17 applications to clear native vegetation on unzoned land lodged under the *Planning Act 1999*.
- Assessed 10 applications to clear native vegetation lodged under the *Pastoral Land Act 1992*, including applications to vary existing permits.
- Assessed two non-pastoral use permits lodged under the Pastoral Land Act for purposes including horticulture and agriculture.
- Carried out rangeland monitoring activities across 31 pastoral leases to assess land condition.
- Amalgamated two historical stock routes into adjoining pastoral stations.
- Assessed and approved eight subleases under the Pastoral Land Act for various purposes including gas infrastructure and aquaculture.
- Assessed and approved six Energy Supply Easements under the *North East Gas Interconnector Pipeline (Special Provisions) Act 2015* for gas purposes.
- Assessed and approved 22 pastoral lease transfers under the Pastoral Land Act.
- Assessed and approved one pastoral lease term extended under the Pastoral Land Act.
- Assessed and approved three lease conversions under the Pastoral Land Act.
- Provided written advice on 536 development proposals for Northern Territory Government agencies and authorities, and private entities.
- Reviewed the Northern Territory Pastoral Land Clearing Guidelines to provide enhanced clarity on when the clearing of native vegetation requires formal assessment to obtain approval from the Pastoral Land Board to clear.
- A comprehensive process was administered to support pastoral lessees experiencing serious hardship due to extreme climatic circumstances by waiving the requirement to pay pastoral lease rent.



IN MEMORIAM - PAUL ZLOTKOWSKI

Paul Zlotkowski served on the Pastoral Land Board from 2016 to 2019. Paul was an influential and progressive chair who was committed to sustainable development. Sadly Paul died in late 2019.

Paul was born in Yeppoon in the 1930s. He grew up on his parents' sheep and cattle property near Longreach working stock and riding horses from a young age. Paul moved to Sydney to attend school, after which he gained employment at Goolgumbula Station then Buttabone Stud Park in New South Wales (NSW).

Paul was appointed as manager of the family's three properties in the mid-fifties. During the 15 years spent managing these properties, Paul was continually on the move buying cattle in the northern NSW region and walking them south to sell.

In 1967 he bought Yelvertoft Station in Queensland (QLD) and a year later Wollogorang Station in the Territory. Paul moved to Wollogorang permanently in 1979, later buying adjoining Wentworth Station then Amungee Mungee Station in 2003 to develop a live export depot for Wollogorang cattle. Here he spent five years building infrastructure such as lanes and waters to handle about 10,000 head. As an avid sailor, Paul retired in 2015 to live permanently on his boat in Cullen Bay.

Paul committed his life to the pastoral industry, experiencing an array of issues including droughts, floods, cyclones and the 1980s BTEC program. In doing so he contributed to the development of the Northern Territory's pastoral estate for some 55 years. Ultimately, he brought his experience to the Pastoral Land Board where he served as chairman from 26 June 2016 to 25 June 2019. Paul was well respected across the pastoral industry and will be greatly missed.

In progress

- Implementation of the strategies to support the management of gamba grass including mapping, planning and tracing of gamba grass; establishment of the Gamba Army; delivery of the Gamba Action Program and Fire Mitigation Assistance Program and finalisation of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020.
- Under Mapping the Future Program progress an extensive field survey program to develop soil and land suitability mapping in the Katherine vicinity.
- Soil and land suitability mapping across part of the Roper River valley is currently being finalised.
- Under Mapping the Future Program refine and expand soil mapping in the Western Davenport region.
- Secure approximately 15,000 legacy vegetation descriptions across the Territory into the Northern Territory Vegetation Site Database (NTVSD)
- Implementation of the statutory weed management plan for athel pine. This includes ongoing collaboration with affected landholders in the upper Class A zone of the Finke River catchment, removal of amenity plantings along with the development of a compliance plan.
- Commencement of vegetation mapping of Limmen National Park.
- Revision of the statutory weed management plans for neem, chinee apple, grader grass and cabomba.
- Continuing to implement management requirements of the Lhere Mparntwe Management Strategy 2019, including buffel grass control.
- Continuing sagittaria detection and eradication measures.
- Continuing emergency rapid responses to incursions of parthenium weed, rubber vine and spigeli , as well as Siam weed (commenced in 2019-20).
- Revision of regional weed management plans/

strategies for Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

- Undertaking trials into the use of the granular herbicide Tebuthiuron for the control of rubber bush in the Alice Springs and Tennant Creek region.
- Undertaking trials into the use of soil active residual products for the control of gamba grass around Darwin, as well as aerial trials in the Coomalie region.

Future priorities

- Control and containment of the Siam weed infestation west of Litchfield National Park, working towards future eradication from the NT.
- Work towards the eradication of prickly acacia from the Barkly Tableland through assisting landholders with strategic control works, remote sensing and cost benefit decisions.
- Finalise soil and land suitability mapping across parts of the central Barkly Tableland.
- Under Mapping the Future Program undertake a soil and land suitability investigation in the Deep Well area.
- Continue to expand broad scale land resource information across the rangelands, including parts of the Barkly and Southern Alice Springs Pastoral Districts.
- Continue to implement and develop long term mangrove health remote sensing monitoring programs in Darwin Harbour.
- Develop a draft framework and associated policy for compliance with the Pastoral Land Act for consideration by the Pastoral Land Board.
- Support the Pastoral Land Board to develop and trial a new process for recovery planning which will be collaboratively developed with pastoral lessees who have legacy issues or declining land condition. Recovery Planning will build upon, then replace former requirements for Voluntary Management Plans.



GAMBA ACTION SERVICE SWITCH PROGRAM

The Gamba Action Program (GAP) is a seasonal program for landholders to get free herbicide and free equipment loans to enable them to better manage their gamba grass. The GAP runs from December to April, the best time for the treatment of gamba grass and before it produces seed.

Due to COVID-19 in March, there was a requirement to re-think the way the GAP was delivered and find a creative way of delivering the program. Meet the Gamba Action Service Switch Program 2019-20 (GASSP-19).

The program adapted an appropriate response during a time of increased stress and uncertainty in the community. The adapted approach remained focussed on providing options for land managers to prepare for the bushfire season.

The GASSP-19 included Rangelands divisional staff, unable to undertake their usual roles, being remobilised to assist weed management officers to provide:

- contactless home delivery service of herbicide to landholders
- spraying of gamba grass for at risk, physically impaired or elderly landowners, or absentee lands and town camps that posed significant gamba fire threat to neighbouring blocks

Over five weeks, seven weed management branch officers and Rangelands divisional staff:

- sprayed 30,300L of mixed herbicide on 28 properties, including Riding for the Disabled and Kulaluk
- sprayed 62 hectares of gamba grass, including 10ha on Kulaluk
- brought the majority of the treated properties, which totalled 1,782 hectares in area, into compliance with the statutory Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass (*Andropogon gayanus*)

This portion of the program carried the informal tagline “Give the Top End a Spray!”

Additionally, the weed management branch averaged 25 phone calls per day for assistance in April, with over 240 landholders receiving contactless home delivery of herbicide.

The GASSP-19 was very well received by the community and the reduced fire load means Territorians were better prepared for the bushfire season.



Water Resources

Scientific monitoring, assessment, allocation, licencing and regulation for sustainable use of the Territory's water resources, and the delivery of flood forecasting services for infrastructure protection and community safety.

This output is responsible for:

- monitoring and assessing the Territory's water resources
- water planning and policy functions to meet the requirements of the environment while also supporting development
- water licencing and regulatory activities in compliance with the Water Act and Regulations
- natural resource mapping and spatial data information services

Services are provided from Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs.

KEY DELIVERABLES	2016-17 ¹ ACTUAL	2017-18 ACTUAL	2018-19 ACTUAL	2019-20 BUDGET	2019-20 ACTUAL
Water allocation plans in effect	-	4	4	8	6
Technical and scientific reports completed and publically available	-	5	22	21	12
Flood warning stations providing alerts to relevant authorities	-	63	70	66	67
Water extraction licences granted	-	70	269	130	141
Bore construction permits issued	-	198	209	145	181
Onsite compliance inspections completed	-	453	881	678	159

Variance analysis actual vs original budget

Water allocation plans in effect:

- The lower number of water allocation plans in effect was due to 2 draft water allocation plans not being finalised by 30 June 2020.

Technical and scientific reports completed and publically available:

- The lower than budgeted number of publicly released scientific and technical reports reflected staffing movements and finalisation of reports taking longer than expected. A further six technical reports were completed but not publically available.

Flood warning stations providing alerts to relevant authorities:

- The higher number of flood warning stations reflected flood warning functions being added to an existing water monitoring site.

Water extraction licenses granted:

- The increase of water extraction licences granted by 8% against budget reflected the reassignment of staffing resources to the licensing team when COVID-19 travel restrictions were in place. A further 25 applications did not result in a licence being granted due to the applicant withdrawing the application or the licence application being refused.

Bore construction permits issued:

- The increase in bore construction permits (now bore work permits) granted by 25% above budget was due to reduced groundwater levels in the Katherine region contributing to an increase in demand for bore work approvals.

Onsite compliance inspections completed:

- The significantly lower than budgeted number of onsite compliance inspections was due to a focus on non-compliant licensees, a reduction in staffing levels and COVID-19 physical distancing requirements impacting on scheduled inspections.

Performance achievements in 2019-20

Completed

- Developed and reviewed policies to ensure efficient administration of the water legislation, specifically policies to address trading and recovery of unused water; and finalised policies for mining and petroleum activity licensing and processing water extraction licence applications, for NT Government approval.
- Finalised and published the department's water legislation compliance and enforcement priorities for the 2020 water accounting year.
- Undertook further studies to identify groundwater dependent ecosystems in the arid zone to inform water allocation planning and water extraction licence assessments.
- Continued the 'Help Stop the Drop' community engagement and information campaign on groundwater in the Darwin Rural area. This campaign was extended to the Katherine region in 2019-20.
- Developed the 2020 'Know Your Bore' tool for Darwin Rural area and Katherine rural stock and domestic water users to enable assessments of bores at risk of water supply difficulties.
- Completed the issuing of 272 water extraction licences in the Darwin Rural area following the removal of the exemption from water licensing on bores pumping less than 15L per second in 2016.
- Determined and published annual announced allocation (AAA) decisions relevant to Top End licences with an AAA condition.
- Issued new 30-year licences for public water supply to Power and Water Corporation to provide greater certainty for ongoing, reliable public water supply for a number of remote communities across the Northern Territory.
- Issued 141 water extraction licences and 181 bore work permits.
- Completed an Assessment of Feasibility of Irrigated Agriculture on the Keep River Plains as required under the Project Agreement for the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund.
- Finalised a hydrogeological study of the Mereenie aquifer to improve knowledge of the resource including potential yield.
- Prepared mapping products to improve flood preparedness for Rapid Creek detention basin, Adelaide River, Katherine, Daguragu and Kalkarindji townships.
- Published spatial information products for Gunn Point under the Mapping the Future Program.
- Undertook investigation drilling in the areas of Gunn Point, Palmerston and Western Davenport.
- Finalised the new Katherine Tindall Limestone Aquifer Water Allocation Plan 2019-2024, declared on 16 August 2019.
- Finalised the Ooloo Dolostone Aquifer Water Allocation Plan 2019-2029, declared on 13 November 2019.
- Finalised the Ti Tree Water Allocation Plan 2020- 2030, declared on 19 February 2020.
- Conducted bore testing and sampling programs in the Western Davenport region.
- Rehabilitated and replaced key bores in the Darwin and Katherine groundwater monitoring networks.
- Published the Darwin Harbour Region Report Card 2019.

In progress

- Continuing to undertake the feasibility study for Ord Stage 3, Land and Water Investigation, funded by the Australian Government through the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund.
- Working with the Rapid Creek Water Advisory Committee on a water management plan for the Rapid Creek catchment.
- Updating environmental flow requirements of the pig-nosed turtle in the Daly River, with partner organisations, as part of the National Environmental Science Program.
- Working collaboratively with Rangers in the Roper River community to monitor river water quality.
- Contributing to the development and implementation of Mapping the Future, including undertaking water assessments in potential new development areas.
- Undertaking the Southern Stuart Corridor, Exploring for the Future Project in collaboration with Geoscience Australia.
- Complete drafting of the Mataranka Tindall Limestone Aquifer, and Howard water allocation plans for key stakeholder and community consultation towards declaration of new water allocation plans.
- Constructing and commissioning new gauging stations on the Armstrong and Wilton Rivers to provide flood alerting for the Buntine and Central Arnhem Highways for the Northern Territory Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics.

- Completing preparation of amendments to the Water Act 1992 to improve administrative efficiency and to capture the Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserve Policy Framework.
- Working with partner agencies to deliver the Strategic Regional Environmental and Baseline assessment as recommended in the Final Report of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing.
- Develop and implement a monitoring program and sustainable water extraction model for the Palmerston Dolostone Aquifer in consultation with partner agencies and major water users, to inform a sustainable water use plan.
- Complete the Palmerston Groundwater Study and publish report.
- Undertake a long-term monitoring program for stream health in Rapid Creek.
- Undertake river health monitoring for the Lake Eyre Basin River assessment program.
- Maintain flood warning stations, providing alerting services to Northern Territory Emergency Services, the Bureau of Meteorology and other relevant authorities.
- Provide support to the independent Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee, including supporting the Darwin Harbour Integrated Report Card project.
- Continue the long-term water quality monitoring program for the annual Darwin Harbour Region Report Card.
- Complete pilot projects for long-term monitoring programs for anthropogenic pressures and sediment quality in Darwin Harbour in conjunction with the Integrated Marine Monitoring and Research Program (IMMRP).
- Upgrading the water information database and development of a new Water Data Portal.
- Continued groundwater and surface water monitoring programs in support of water resource assessments and water allocation plans.

Future priorities

- Progress development of new water allocation plans for the Beetaloo North and Beetaloo South water allocation planning areas as per recommendation 7.7 in the Final Report of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing.
- Finalise water assessment studies and publish reports for the Bonaparte Plains East, and Orange Creek.
- Finalise a surface water flood harvesting guidance policy for the assessment of surface water extraction licence applications.
- Prepare mapping products to improve flood preparedness for Adelaide River township and the Rapid Creek detention basin.
- Develop and deliver long-term systematic monitoring programs for Darwin Harbour's water, sediment quality and anthropogenic pressures.



Development potential of the Gunn Point Area

During the year, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources completed the most comprehensive biophysical resource assessment undertaken in the Northern Territory to date. At Gunn Point peninsula, on the outskirts of Greater Darwin, over 71,000 ha was surveyed and mapped to determine land capability, water availability and biodiversity resources. The area surveyed was nearly three times the size of Darwin and Palmerston combined.

The project provided confidence about the biophysical resources and a baseline of information to inform investment decisions and effective regulatory decisions. Mapping of resource availability and constraints will enable government to progress from conceptual to detailed planning for the Gunn Point peninsula, an area recognized as having significant potential for a broad range of development opportunities.

- 33,000 ha of land has high to moderate potential for general development, suitable for dryland or rain-fed agriculture, forestry, rural residential living or industrial purposes.
- Nearly 20,000 ha of this land has access to a productive aquifer.
- Approximately 37,000 ha is not recommended for development due to physical or environmental land use constraints.
- Sufficient groundwater is available to sustainably support a modest horticultural precinct, potentially increasing the land under irrigate agriculture in the Litchfield municipality by 10-15%.
- In 2015, an NT Farmers Economics Profile estimated the Litchfield horticultural industry contributed \$122 million annually to the local economy.
- Irrigable land is likely to be suitable for growing a range of tropical and sub-tropical fruits, citrus, cucurbits, fruiting, leafy and root vegetables, commercial flowers and forestry.

With all weather road access, close proximity to transport hubs, workforce and planned provision for utilities and trunk services, the Gunn Point peninsula offers considerable opportunity for strategic industry, primary production, and rural and residential development.

Further information is available at: denr.nt.gov.au/developmentopportunities/projects/gunn-point



BUSHFIRES NT HEADQUARTERS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Construction of the new \$6.8m Bushfires NT headquarters at Acacia Hills was completed and handed over to Bushfires NT on 29 May 2020.

Bushfires NT staff have relocated from Winnellie and Batchelor to the facility to provide support to the community and volunteers in the rural area.

The new headquarters will support 35 ongoing Bushfires NT staff and around 350 volunteers, making it easier for staff to better coordinate planning and response to the fire season.

Our Bushfires NT staff and volunteers do a fantastic job to keep our community safe.



Bushfires NT

Provides fire management support to rural stakeholders and volunteer bushfire brigades across the Territory, including fire management planning, training and mitigation, and suppression activities to ensure best fire management practices.

This output is responsible for:

- supporting landholders in the management and mitigation of wildfire
- providing support and training to volunteer bushfire brigades across the Territory

Services and support are provided across the Territory with offices located in Darwin (Acacia Hills), Batchelor, Katherine, and Alice Springs.

KEY DELIVERABLES	2016-17 ACTUAL	2017-18 ACTUAL	2018-19 ACTUAL	2019-20 BUDGET	2019-20 ACTUAL
Permits to burn issued	-	-	1,347	1,280	2,482
Planned burns attended by Bushfires NT or authorised volunteers	-	-	876	340	250
Formal fire management planning meetings with stakeholders	-	172	184	158	202
Compliance inspections under the <i>Bushfires Management Act 2016</i>	-	3,632	4,438	3,600	5,923
Number of stakeholders trained	226	318	241	400	90
Number of authorised bushfire volunteers and volunteer fire wardens	316	408	457	520	526

Variance analysis actual vs original budget

Permits to burn issued:

- The 93% increase in the actual number of permits to burn against budget was reflective of more volunteers and staff using the Bushfires Emergency Management System (BEMS) which allowed for more efficient issue of permits.

Planned burns attended by Bushfires NT or authorised volunteers:

- The decrease of 26% in planned burns was a result of less planned burns in central Australia due to low fuel loads.

Formal fire management planning meetings with stakeholders:

- Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the number of fire management face to face meetings had been decreasing. This allowed staff to hold telephone meetings with a 27% increase in meetings.

Compliance inspections under the Bushfires Management Act:

- The number of compliance inspections estimate saw a 64% increase during the year due to additional staff availability from Bushfires NT and the Weed Management Branch during COVID-19, the extra resources gave us the flexibility to work on firebreak inspections.

Number of stakeholders trained:

- Actual trained stakeholders decreased by 77% on the original budget due to early COVID-19 restrictions. Training was reinstated in June 2020 with one course offered prior to the declaration of the Top End fire season.

Number of authorised bushfire volunteers and volunteer fire wardens:

- As a result of the recent training course in June 2020, the number of authorised volunteers and fire wardens has seen a small increase over the budget estimate.

Performance achievements in 2019-20

Completed

- Construction completed on the new Bushfires NT headquarters in Acacia Hills, which supports 35 Bushfires NT staff and 350 volunteers.
- Developed and launched the Bushfires NT Volunteer Strategy 2019-2022.
- Improvements to training for volunteer and Bushfires NT staff including the introduction of nationally accredited training at advanced levels in key operational areas.

In progress

- Reviewing and designing new grass firefighting units to meet safety and functional requirements for staff and volunteers.
- Review and improvement of volunteer fleet management arrangements to ensure volunteer brigades are provided with best possible quality vehicles and equipment.
- Undertake an externally funded project, Identifying and Reducing Wildfire Risk in remote communities.
- Improvements in quality and replacement rate of personal protective equipment provided for volunteer fire fighters.
- Responding to requests of the Royal Commission for National Natural Disaster Arrangements.
- Develop an online training portal for accredited training to staff and volunteers across the Territory.
- Improving capacity and safety in responding to wildfires with a new NT Aviation Capability Officer to meet national standards.
- Continue to develop and implement effective fire management plans in collaboration with landholders.
- Develop a communication pathways to ensure transparency and understanding goals with staff and volunteers.
- Develop and maintain a sustainable network of volunteers across the Territory.





CHIEF MINISTER'S AWARDS

This year has been one of the busiest for Bushfires NT and one of its most successful, with the division being awarded the Chief Minister's award in November 2019.

The team won the "Strengthening Government Integrity and Public Administration Award" following the launch of its Bushfires Emergency Management System (BEMS) in March 2019.

BEMS is a web application that provides the platform for Bushfires NT and volunteer brigades to digitise permits, planned burns and fire incidents.

This great achievement is deserved recognition for the wonderful staff at Bushfires NT whose devotion to improving public safety is unwavering.

Environment

Provides assessment and monitoring to ensure the environment is protected through identifying, managing and mitigating potential impacts and risks from human activities.

This output is responsible for:

- providing services that support the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA)
- advising government on NT EPA assessment reports
- managing the regulatory framework to reduce the impact of waste and pollution on the Territory environment
- developing and implementing strategic policy to ensure environmentally sustainable practices and behaviour
- services are provided from Darwin and Alice Springs
- advising government on NT EPA assessment reports
- administering licences and approvals to protect the environment from the impacts of waste and pollution on the Territory's environment
- regulation of onshore petroleum activities in the Northern Territory

KEY DELIVERABLES	2016-17 ACTUAL	2017-18 ACTUAL	2018-19 ACTUAL	2019-20 BUDGET	2019-20 ACTUAL
Environmental assessment reports provided to the minister	3	4	4	4	3
Decision on whether environmental impact assessment required	26	17	17	33	25
Waste and pollution approvals and licences	171	217	233	233	236
Container deposit scheme approvals	363	1,138	1,271	1,163	1,128
Compliance audits conducted	102	115	194	120	127
Responses to pollution incidents	879	907	909	1,100	992
Onshore petroleum environment management plans assessed	-	-	-	15	8
Percentage of grant funds paid to promote ecologically sustainable practices ¹	-	-	-	100%	100%
NT Environment Protection Authority satisfaction	-	4	5	≥ 5	5

Variance analysis actual vs original budget

Environmental assessment reports provided to the Minister:

- The number of Assessment Reports delivered to the Minister reflects the broader economic landscape and the number and type of developments proponents wish to pursue. The actual number of Assessment Reports delivered was one less than the original budget of 4 reports.

Decision on whether environmental impact assessment required:

- The number of decisions made on environmental assessments is dependent on the broader economic landscape and the number and type of developments proponents wish to pursue. The budget was increased substantially from previous years due to the new inclusion of all onshore petroleum actions. There were eight less decisions than budgeted, reflecting fewer development proposals and a slowing in proposed petroleum activity due to COVID-19.

Waste and pollution approvals and licences:

- The number of waste and pollution approvals and licenses administered in 2019-20 was consistent with the numbers predicted to be administered in 2019-20 with a slight increase (1% variation) in licences administered which largely correlated to an increase in surrenders, transfers or amendment of licences surrendering licences.

¹ New measure from 2019-20

Compliance audits conducted:

- The number of compliance audits conducted in 2019-20 was slightly greater than budgeted. The number of compliance audits undertaken reflects the targeting of audits on more serious issues and incidents requiring significant actions in the shorter term.

Responses to pollution incidents:

- The number of responses to pollution incidents was 10% less than budgeted. This reflects, in part, a decrease in referrals from some other regulators (particularly local government) and a reduction in pollution reports received since the onset of COVID-19.

Onshore petroleum environment management plans assessed

- The number of onshore petroleum Environment Management Plans assessed was less than budgeted. This is due to a slowing of onshore petroleum exploration activity, largely due to COVID-19.

Performance achievements in 2019-20

Completed

- Provided high quality advice and administrative support to the NT EPA to complete environmental impact assessment of major projects.
- Introduced the Environment Protection Act 2019 and Environment Protection Regulations 2020 to substantially reform the Northern Territory's environmental impact assessment system.
- Provided services to the NT EPA through the administration of 181 licences and approvals under the Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998 and 1203 Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) supply approvals, 21 depot approvals and 4 coordinator approvals under the Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Act 2011.
- Administered 55 Waste Discharge Licences under the Water Act 1992 on behalf of the Controller of Water Resources.
- The transfer of the activities of the Onshore Gas Reform Unit into the Environment Division.
- Provided high quality advice to the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources to support approval decision on eight Environment Management Plans under the Petroleum (Environment) Regulations.
- Established compliance and enforcement processes under the Petroleum (Environment) Regulations including undertaking six onsite compliance inspection for seismic, civils, drilling and hydraulic fracturing activities approved during 2019-20.
- Completed an audit of 825 waste transport certificates under the Movement of Controlled Movement of Waste National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM) to determine the total volume of hazardous waste materials generated, stored, transported and disposed of within the NT and interstate over the 2019-20 financial year.
- Administered the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS), which saw 100 million containers redeemed at Northern Territory (NT) collection depots during 2019-20.
- Completed auditing and compliance of more than 2260 CDS records checked and verified for accuracy and validity. This is in line with recommendations from the independent review of the CDS that a greater focus on compliance with the scheme is required
- Provided services to the NT EPA in responding to 992 pollution incident reports.
- Responded to the impacts of COVID-19 on business and industry by taking a constructive, flexible and risk-based approach to licensing and compliance activities while maintaining appropriate environmental outcomes.
- Amended the Marine Pollution Act 1999 to address practical deficiencies that limited the Territory's ability to take enforcement action against foreign owned ships that may cause pollution in the Territory's marine waters.
- Administered the Environment Grants program which provided almost \$1 million in funding to not for profit organisations, schools and community groups to encourage greater community engagement in environment protection and enhance waste reduction, reuse and recycling.
- Supported the NT EPA in the development of a 'Statement of Intent 2020-2022' to fulfil its obligations under the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act 2012.

In progress

- Developing a comprehensive suite of guidance material to communicate the requirements of the new environmental impact assessment and

approvals process, and increase transparency and certainty.

- Continuing policy research and development and stakeholder engagement to inform the further development of the Environment Protection Act 2019 to improve the Territory's management of wastes, pollution, land clearing and the environmental impacts of mining activities.
- Developing the 'Northern Territory Climate Change Response: Towards 2050' and supporting 'Three Year Action Plan' to deliver emissions reduction initiatives and assist the Northern Territory to adapt and respond to the impacts of climate change.
- Developing a framework and supporting policies and guidance to introduce an environmental offsets regime in the Northern Territory.
- Implementing a robust, contemporary online system for waste tracking to facilitate improved traceability and reporting of hazardous waste movements in the NT.
- Developing operational policy and technical guidance material to support the Petroleum (Environment) Regulations, including guidance on the requirements of an environment management plan under the Regulations.
- Reviewing the efficiency and effectiveness of the onshore petroleum environment management plan assessment and approval process undertaken during 2019 under the Water Act 1992 and Petroleum (Environment) Regulations 2016.
- Supporting the NT EPA to provide strategic advice to inform the future of seabed mining in the Northern Territory.
- Implementing the recommendations from the 5 year review of the CDS in line with government's commitments.
- Providing information, advice and alerts on air quality and related impacts in the Darwin region.

- Providing regulatory advice on the assessment and management of contaminated sites including regulatory oversight of the NT's response to per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

Future Priorities

- Advise Government on reforms to the Environment Protection Act 2019 to improve the management of environmental impacts of mining activities to support improved environmental outcomes and investor certainty.
- Deliver the actions of the Northern Territory Climate Change Response 'Three Year Action Plan'.
- Finalise the Northern Territory's Offsets Framework and Principles and delivering a Biodiversity Offset Policy for the Northern Territory.
- Finalise amendments to the Petroleum (Environment) Regulations 2016 to support the introduction of statutory land access arrangements under the Petroleum Act 1984.
- Implement further recommendations of the Final Report of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing, including amending the Petroleum (Environment) Regulations 2016 to establish legislative requirements for environmental securities for onshore petroleum activities.
- Develop and implement the Environment Division Compliance and Enforcement Plan to establish a risk based compliance program for licensed and unlicensed activities and ensure transparency to the regulated community.
- Further develop the Northern Territory's waste strategy to respond to the ban on export of waste tyres, glass, plastics and paper, and implementation of the National Waste Policy Action Plan in the Northern Territory.
- Facilitate ecologically sustainable development of Darwin Harbour through focused studies on the cumulative impacts of development on the Harbour and Darwin region airshed.
- Advise Government on reforms to the Environment Protection Act 2019 to improve the management of the impacts of waste, pollution and litter.



SEEKING REGULATORY EFFICIENCIES IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND APPROVAL PROCESS FOR ONSHORE PETROLEUM ACTIVITIES

In February 2019 responsibility for environmental regulation of the onshore petroleum industry was transferred to the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources. Petroleum operators must have an approved environment management plan (EMP) before they commence activities in the Northern Territory, with the decisions on whether to approve an EMP or not resting with the Minister. DENR supports the Minister by assessing EMPs and providing advice to the Minister to inform approval decisions.

Reforms to the Water Act now require petroleum operators to hold a water extraction licence to extract groundwater for onshore petroleum activities. Licensing decisions by the Controller of Water Resources are supported by the establishment of the Daly Roper Beetaloo water control district, which the existing water control district footprint to include the Beetaloo Sub-basin.

In early 2020, the Petroleum Operation team conducted a retrospective review of the performance and effectiveness of the petroleum assessment and approval processes during 2019. The review aimed to identify improvements in the assessment and approval processes under the Petroleum (Environment) Regulations 2016 and Water Act.

The review was informed by consultation with industry, Northern Territory Government agencies, the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority and the Environmental Defenders Office NT. A number of workshops were held to generate discussion and feedback on administration of the EMP and water extraction licensing assessment and approvals processes.

The review identified learnings and opportunities to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the EMP and water extraction licensing assessment and approvals processes, which have been addressed in a number of recommendations.



Communications and engagement

The department undertook a range of community engagement activities during 2019-20.

- Expanded the “Know Your Bore” online tool beyond the Darwin rural area to include Palmerston and Katherine. The tool helps residents determine if they might be faced with groundwater shortages towards the end of the dry season.
- Worked in partnership with the Alice Springs community, Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority, Arid Edge Environmental Services and other key government agencies to protect the iconic Todd River red gums, ironwood and corkwood trees as part of the Lhere Mparntwe Management Strategy.
- Accepted an invitation from the Li-Anthawirriyarra Sea Rangers in Borroloola to give advice on their weed management plan.
- Consulted Territorians about:
 - The Wildlife Management Program for the Magpie Goose
 - The Northern Territory Coastal and Marine Management Strategy 2019-2029
 - The Darwin Harbour Strategy 2019-2024
 - Bushfires NT Volunteer Strategy 2019-22
 - NT Offsets Policy
- Sponsored the Territory Natural Resources Management (TNRM) Conference and its associated awards held in Darwin in November 2019.
- Attended the Alice Springs Ecofair to promote the “Bin it Don’t Spread it” initiative, urging local residents to place declared cactus in their kerbside wheelie bins at the local waste management facility.
- Supported the community to manage gamba grass and provide free gamba herbicide and equipment loans through the Gamba Action Program (GAP). In its 10th consecutive year, the program was modified in March 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions and renamed the Gamba Action Service Switch Program (GASSP-19). The program ran for 5 weeks and resulted in 1782 hectares across multiple properties being sprayed with glyphosate.
- Sponsored the Society of Environment, Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) conference in Darwin. The department also hosted two sessions about managing environmental quality for onshore oil and gas operations, and managing environmental quality for marine oil and gas operations.
- The department’s onshore gas reform team joined the Department of Chief Minister (DCM) and other agencies to work at the whole of government display during the Katherine Show. Coffee mugs creating awareness about the noxious parthenium weed were very popular.
- Supported the 2019 Northern Australia Fire Managers Forum held in Darwin. The Forum was held at the Northern Australia Development Office and hosted by Bushfires NT, with support of the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC. Topics of interest included the Indigenous carbon industry and participants enjoyed a field trip to the Tiwi Islands.
- Held several Water Advisory Committee meetings to develop water management plans across the Northern Territory.
- Engaged with key stakeholders at the following industry conferences:
 - South East Asia Australia Onshore and Offshore Conference (SEAAOC) 2019
 - Northern Territory Resources Week 2019
 - Ecological Society of Australia Conference 2019





BUSHFIRES NT DEPLOYMENTS TO QUEENSLAND AND NEW SOUTH WALES

Given the devastating 2019-20 bushfires experienced interstate Bushfires NT staff and volunteers were part of a Northern Territory response to provide assistance to fire fighters in NSW to combat that state's bushfire crisis. This was the first time since 2007 that Bushfires NT members have been deployed in an on ground firefighting capacity.

In January 2020 a total of 30 Bushfires NT staff and volunteers from three strike teams joined their NTFRS counterparts in the Shoalhaven/Nowra and Bega/Bermagui areas. The teams comprised of Strike Team leaders, crew leaders, firefighters and a National Large Air Tanker Liaison Officer. In addition we deployed a Jurisdictional Liaison Officer to oversee our staff and volunteers.

This deployment was in addition to 3 Bushfires NT staff that travelled to Queensland to assist in the Boonah Incident Control Centre in south-east Queensland in November 2019 during Queensland's declared State of Emergency.

This support was greatly appreciated by our interstate colleagues.



WATER PLANNING FOR THE TERRITORY

In 2019-20, the department finalised the Katherine Tindall Limestone Aquifer Water Allocation Plan 2019-2024, the Ooloo Dolostone Aquifer Water Allocation Plan 2019-2029 and the Ti Tree Water Allocation Plan 2020-2030, to complement the suite of existing water allocation plans.

The Katherine Tindall and the Ooloo plans guide water allocation decisions in their respective aquifers within the Daly Roper Beetaloo Water Control District. These regions play a vital economic role for industries such as agribusiness and tourism, which are reliant on secure water supplies to support their business operations and need to be sustainably managed into the future.

The Ti Tree Plan applies to all surface and groundwater within the Ti Tree Water Control District. It provides clear guidance on the water that is available for allocation under a licence for development in the area and the water that is required to maintain key environmental and cultural assets that are equally important to the region and those communities that depend on it.

A significant outcome of these plans is the establishment of a Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserve, which provides for future Aboriginal economic development. The plans also make trading of licensed entitlements possible and establishes specific trading guidelines.

Our regionally-focussed water allocation plans ensure water supplies are sustainably managed into the future. Water allocation plans aim to protect the environment and equitably share the available water between users, to ensure the long term sustainability of the water resource. Plans are developed in regions where there are competing demands for water or there is risk from water use on significant environmental or cultural values.

OUR PEOPLE



OUR PEOPLE SNAPSHOT

M

52% males

F

48% females



81%

of our staff are ongoing (permanent) employees

Average age of staff

45 years

female average – 43 years

male average – 47 years

32 employees work part-time and 87 other staff have a flexible work arrangement



10+ years

41%

of our staff have more than 10 years of service with the NTPS

28%



Water Resources is our largest division

4%

of our staff identify as Aboriginal

40+ years

1.7%

of our staff have more than 40 years of service with the NTPS

Our full-time equivalent staff numbers at 30 June 2020 were

281.76

303

Our headcount of staff

67%

of our staff are employed in the professional (41%) and technical (26%) streams

Our separation rate is

25%



1.6%

people with disability

NESB 6.2%

people have a non-English speaking background

OVERVIEW

Our people are our most important asset. The department aims to attract and recruit the best available talent. We support, retain and develop our people to ensure they are capable and committed to achieving the department's strategic objectives. We understand that an engaged and motivated workforce is more likely to be productive and invested in their work, resulting in us achieving our organisational outcomes.

WORKFORCE PROFILE

Our staff are passionate and dedicated to providing valuable outcomes for the public.

A total of 67% of the workforce are in technical and professional roles which demonstrates a high level of commitment to the relevant fields of expertise, essential to environmental protection and managing our natural resource assets sustainably and in the interests of Territorians.

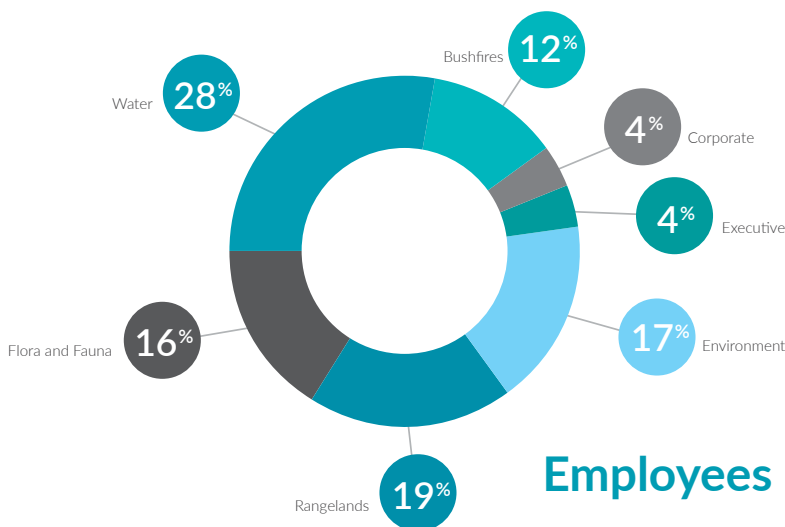
As of 30 June 2020, the department employed 303 people throughout the Territory, in the major centres of Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

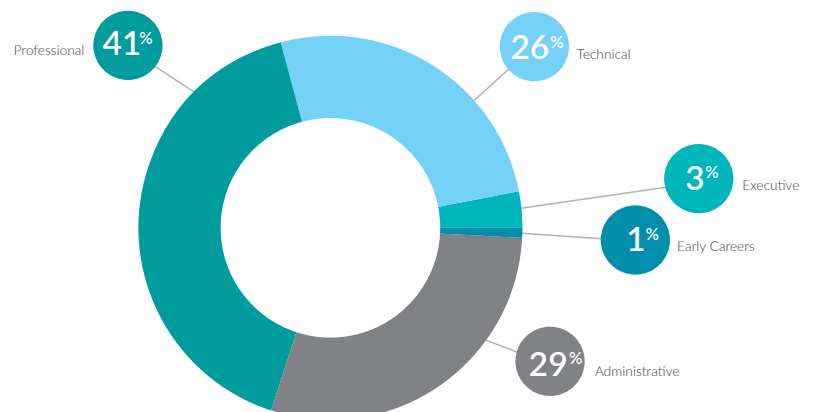
During 2019-20, the department advertised and filled 174 positions.

The turnover rate during the same period was 25%. This is equivalent to 68 employee separations from 275 established positions.

Employees by division



Employees by stream



DEVELOPING OUR WORKFORCE CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

The department continues to support managers to identify individual staff development needs through undertaking of performance agreements (the BOOST) and supports this with assessments against the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment's (OCPE) Capability and Leadership Framework.

The department has a suite of online essential training that has been developed to support all staff to better understand their obligations as public sector employees and the frameworks within which the department operates. We also promote and encourage attendance at training activities, including the suite of targeted leadership programs offered by OCPE.

Our culture

The department aims to inspire and support a workplace culture that is collaborative, respectful and accountable. We achieve this by:

- building and enhancing our strategic leadership capacity and capability across the agency
- having targeted development programs to nurture and grow talent
- providing a safe working environment and promoting safe practices in both office and field operations
- making ongoing improvements to business processes and streamlining internal systems

Investment in our people

While the department's training expenditure has been trending downwards, the drop between 2018-19 and 2019-20 reflects the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on staff's ability to attend training.

The department's training expenditure comparison for the past 3 years is:

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Training, study and other	\$327,878	\$241,203	\$187,763
Conferences	\$36,913	\$25,177	\$17,613
Total	\$364,791	\$266,380	\$205,376

Studies assistance

The department supports employees gaining relevant professional and technical skills through higher education studies. We had 4 employees apply for study assistance during 2019-20 with total support provided of \$7,262.

Senior leaders forum 2020

Cancelled due to COVID-19.



Steele Davies from Bushfires NT and Angela Estbergs from Rangelands, graduated on 12 September 2019 from the Public Sector Management Program (PSMP) as part of the Graduate Certificate in Business.

EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

The department has continued to support early career development with 8 participants in programs over the 2019-20 period.

Apprenticeships – school based trainees

These programs combine employment with structured learning to develop workplace skills and provide a nationally recognised qualification.

In 2019-20, the department supported 7 school-based apprentices.

Apprenticeships – full-time

The department also supported 1 full-time apprentice in the business field. We had 5 people complete their apprenticeships during 2019-20 and 2 have remained employed within NTPS, 1 went on to gain employment with a Commonwealth Government agency, 2 went to the private sector.

Volunteers

Additionally the department provides unpaid work placements to suit a variety of arrangements including school work experience, university placements, return to work placements and general work placements and volunteers.

WELLBEING

Work life balance

The department offers flexible working options, recognised as a valuable tool in achieving greater productivity and supporting employees to improve their balance between work and personal commitments. These arrangements provide support to staff, enabling them to adjust their working arrangements for an agreed period of time. This is due to a variety of circumstances such as returning from parental leave, to undertake responsibilities as a care giver, and transition to retirement.

In 2019-20, the department supported 87 individual flexible work arrangements.

Employee assistance program

The department continued to promote the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and facilitated 137 visits during 2019-20.

Flu vaccination program

The department again offered all staff influenza (flu) vaccinations. The program was well received with a total of 170 staff having the vaccination in Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine and Alice Springs in 2019-20.



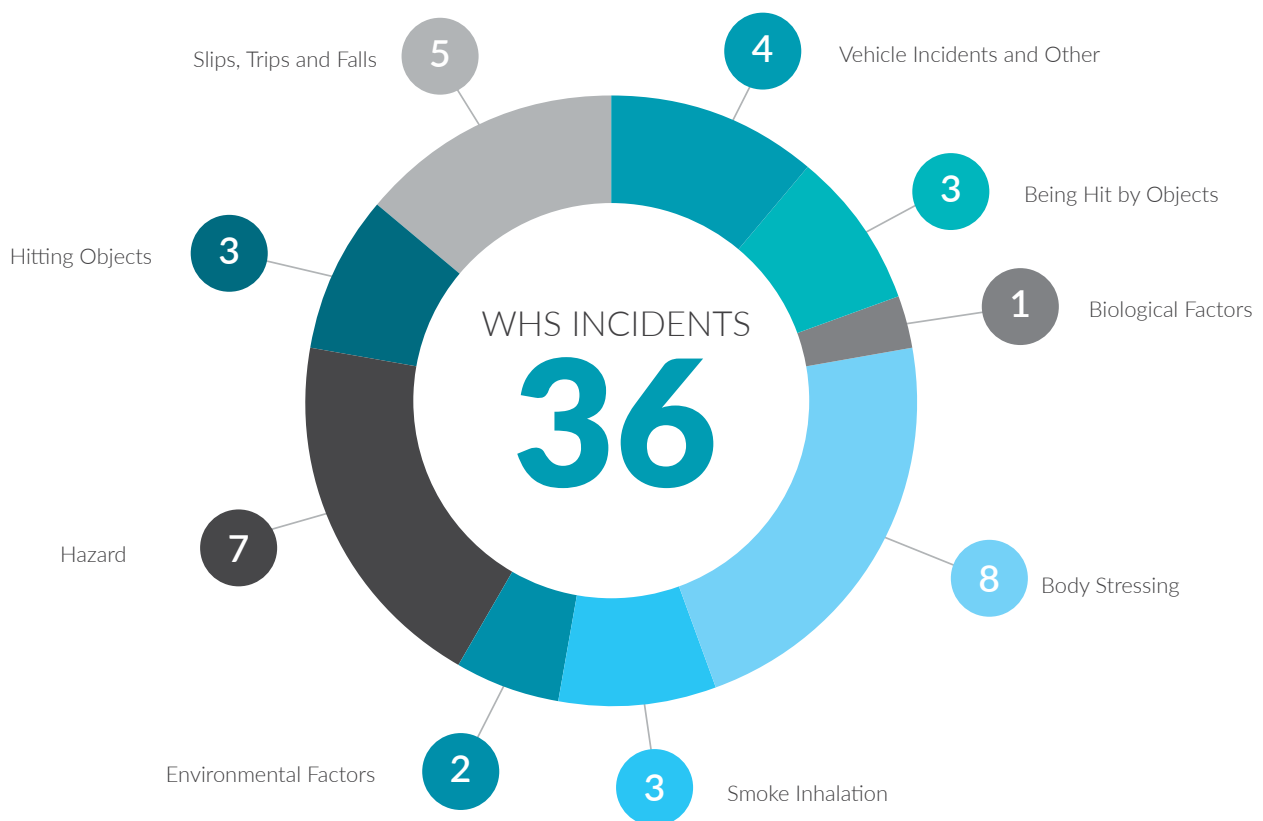
WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY (WHS)

The department is committed to providing and maintaining safe and healthy workplaces and ensuring compliance with the *Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011* and the *Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2015*.

Activities undertaken to implement the Work Health and Safety (WHS) legislation include:

- continual review of current policies, procedures and systems
- regular committee and workplace meetings
- staff trained for committees and fire warden duties
- training provided for field working staff, for example 4WD training

The Governance Board is the department's WHS approving body and is supported by a WHS committee for each division.



LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Employment instructions

Under the Public Sector Employment and Management Act (PSEMA), Employment Instructions provide direction to agencies on human resource management matters. The department's performance against each Employment Instruction (EI) is reported below.

EMPLOYMENT INSTRUCTION	ACTION
1 Filling vacancies	Recruitment and establishment procedures are available on the intranet. Completion of the online Merit Selection Training is a requirement for all staff who take part in the selection process.
2 Probation	The department has a probation procedure consistent with legislation on our intranet site. New employees are advised of the probation process during induction and given information about their responsibilities. Probation is monitored on a regular basis and managers are advised of upcoming probation due dates to ensure timely compliance. In 2019-20 no staff were terminated during the probation process.
3 Natural justice	The principles of natural justice are communicated to all employees. Natural justice is adhered to in all dealings with employees and reflected appropriately in internal policies and procedures.
4 Employee management	The department has a performance management system called Building Our Own Staff Talent (BOOST). A total of 35% of staff had records of performance discussions being held in 2019-20,
5 Medical examinations	Advice is provided to managers as required by HR consultants. There were no medical incapacity cases in 2019-20.
6 Performance and inability	The performance and inability guidelines are available from the department's intranet. HR Services supports managers dealing with under-performance issues, and helps managers and staff to improve performance. There were no formal performance improvement processes undertaken in 2019-20.
7 Discipline	The discipline employment instruction and associated guidelines are available from the department's intranet. HR Services works closely with managers to ensure processes are followed correctly and natural justice is provided. There was 1 section 49 disciplinary action undertaken in 2019-20.
8 Internal agency complaints and section 59 grievance reviews	There is significant documentation on the department's intranet in relation to resolving complaints and the formal grievance process. In 2019-20 there were 1 internal complaints and 1 section 59 grievance lodged with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment.
9 Employment records	The Department of Corporate and Information Services (DCIS) stores employment records on personnel files. The department complies with the DCIS policy regarding access to these files. Any requests to access employee records are made through the department's Director Human Resources (HR). A total of 1 request to access employee information was lodged under the Information Act 2002 in 2019-20.
10 Equality of employment opportunity programs	The department adheres to the principles of the NTPS EmployAbility Strategy. The department has a Diversity Policy which is available on the staff intranet.



EMPLOYMENT INSTRUCTION	ACTION
11 Occupational health and safety programs	The department has divisional work health and safety (WHS) committees to ensure compliance. Details in relation to WHS activities and claims are provided on page 42.
12 Code of conduct	The code of conduct is available on the department's intranet site and is reinforced by the activities of HR Services. The code of conduct is available online and is covered as part of the mandatory training program for new staff.
13 Appropriate workplace behaviours	There is significant documentation available on the intranet site about addressing inappropriate behaviour in the workplace, including bullying.
14 Redeployment and redundancy procedures	The department adheres to the current redeployment and redundancy provisions. A total of 3 staff members received a voluntary redundancy during 2019-20.
15 Special measures	The department does not have a special measures plan in place, however does have a Diversity Policy which supports increasing employment opportunities for people from all Equality of Employment Opportunity (EEO) groups.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE



GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

Governance holds the department and its people to account through defined responsibilities, policies, systems and processes. It is the system through which the department is controlled and operates to achieve its performance objectives and accountability.

The department’s governance framework is based on the Australian Securities Exchange principles of corporate governance, which have been reworked for a public sector environment.

The department is governed by 9 principles, each of which has operational elements used to assess governance maturity level and identify opportunities for improvement.

Governance principles

1. Government and public sector relationship	The department’s relationship with the government is clear
2. Management and oversight	The department’s management and oversight is accountable and has clearly defined responsibilities
3. Organisational structure	The department’s structure serves its operations
4. Operations	The department plans its operations to achieve its goals
5. Ethics and integrity	Ethics and integrity are embedded in the department’s values and operations
6. People	The department’s leadership in people management contributes to individual and organisational achievements
7. Finance	The department safeguards financial integrity and accountability
8. Communication	The department communicates with all parties in a way that is accessible, open and responsive
9. Risk management	The department identifies and manages its risks

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

The department’s governance structure is made up of a Governance Board and supporting committees focused on important governance elements.

The Governance Board and committees oversee the allocation of resources across the department and the development and implementation of policies, plans and procedures. This provides a foundation of good governance for the department’s activities.

The committees report to the Governance Board, except the Audit and Risk Management Committee, which reports directly to the Chief Executive Officer, as outlined in the diagram below.



Each committee’s functions and performance for 2019-20 are outlined in this section. Membership as at 30 June 2020 is outlined in Appendix 1.

GOVERNANCE BOARD

The Governance Board provides governance and leadership to several committees that support the department's objectives and purpose.

The Governance Board is the department's principal planning and decision making body on corporate governance matters. The Chief Executive Officer is primarily responsible for providing strategic leadership and systems development for the department.

The Governance Board includes representatives from all divisions in the department. Other department officers attend Governance Board meetings as required.

The responsibilities of the Governance Board are to:

- set the strategic direction for the department
- act as a consultative forum, providing advice on current and future directions for the agency
- provide advice and support on the planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the department's performance against its corporate responsibilities and objectives
- report against deliverables identified in the department's strategic plan through the annual report and budget papers
- act as the department's Work Health and Safety approving body
- provide a forum to consider issues arising from divisional activity that may be relevant to other Governance Board members
- act as a decision making body that considers and determines responses to policies that impact on the wider community
- maximise opportunities for partnerships, networking and information sharing

The Governance Board also act as the decision making body for department policies and systems, including:

- managing risk and assurance in relation to compliance with statutory requirements
- strategic human resource and workforce planning and management
- financial and budget management
- information and records management
- technology and telecommunications planning and management

The Governance Board appoints committees as required.

COMMITTEES

Audit and risk management committee

- monitors the department's strategic, corporate and operational risk management functions and activities and the adequacy of the internal controls established to manage identified risks
- monitors the internal audit function (including review of the annual internal audit program, review and monitoring of audit terms of reference, audit outcomes, management responses and implementation of the audit recommendations)
- monitors the external audit program (including audit outcomes, the department's responses and implementation of the audit recommendations)
- reviews and comments on the state of organisational governance within the scope of the committee's terms of reference in the areas of the department's risk management framework, the internal controls framework and external accountability

The Audit and Risk Management Committee held four meetings during the year on 31 July 2019, 12 December 2019, 2 April 2020 and 18 June 2020.

Outcomes from the meetings included:

- reviewed and monitored the implementation of the agency's 2019-20 Internal Audit Plan and provided input into the 2020-21 Internal Audit Plan for Governance Board endorsement and CEO approval.
- reviewed the department's audit reports and monitored management implementation of audit recommendations conducted under the internal and external audit programs
- reviewed the department's systems of risk oversight and management including Strategic and Operational Risk Registers. The committee developed an Executive Director divisional risk register update template to be provided at each committee meeting by divisions along with their operational risk registers which provides the committee with an overview of the quarterly reviews and updates of each division with the intention to ensure risk management is reviewed consistently and on a regular basis by divisions
- reviewed the processes in place for financial and performance reporting within the scope of the committees terms of reference
- reviewed the Committees Terms of Reference
- reviewed and endorsed the department's Internal Audit Charter

Work health and safety committees

As part of the work health and safety (WHS) framework, committees are established in each division across the department.

All divisional committees:

- act as a consultative forum that provides advice on safety matters
- keep informed about standards of health and safety
- recommend maintenance and monitoring of programs, measures and procedures relating to the health and safety of workers
- conduct regular workplace inspections, including, when requested, a workplace relocation/redesign or when an incident occurs
- consider and make recommendations about proposed workplace changes that may affect the health and safety of the workers
- review hazard and incident report trends and make recommendations as required

In addition, the Bushfires NT WHS committee also:

- coordinates all WHS and risk management frameworks across Bushfires NT and volunteer bushfire brigades
- monitors and manages all WHS incidents
- reviews and manages all standard operating procedures, fire-ground practices and general occupational policies
- manages feedback links to staff and volunteers in relation to any WHS matter

Emergency Management Committee

The Emergency Management Committee:

- leads department activities before and during an event and reviews and evaluates activities after an event
- manages communication and emergency messaging for staff and assists with coordination of messaging across government
- ensures the department has an emergency management plan in place
- assists in coordinating the department's cyclone plans and monitoring cyclone preparedness

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Governance Committee

The ICT Governance Committee:

- reviews and endorses business cases and project plans for ICT initiatives and investment decisions
- oversees the delivery of ICT initiatives and performance review of project delivery

- oversees the development and monitoring of the ICT strategic direction and its policies
- periodically monitors the department's ICT environment to ensure risks and issues are identified and appropriately managed
- reviews and endorses submissions for major ICT investments or initiatives for approval by the Northern Territory Government ICT Governance Board

STATUTORY COMMITTEES AND BODIES

At 30 June 2020, the department was responsible for the following statutory committees and bodies.

Membership details can be found in Appendix 2.

Water advisory committees

Water advisory committees are established under section 23 of the Water Act to provide advice and recommendations to the department on water management and allocations. This includes advice on developing and implementing water allocation plans. Its members are appointed by the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources.

Drillers Qualification Advisory Committee

The Drillers Qualification Advisory Committee is established under section 54 of the Water Act 1992 and Water Regulation 12 to advise the Controller of Water Resources on matters relating to licensing drillers. Its members are appointed by the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources.

Water Resources Review Panel

The Water Resources Review Panel, established under section 24 of the Water Act 1992, consists of a Chairman and a group of 8 people with qualifications or experience in bore drilling, primary industry, secondary industry, Aboriginal affairs, public health, environmental management, fisheries and mining. All members are appointed by the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources.

Bushfires Council of the Northern Territory

The Bushfires Council of the Northern Territory, established under section 21 of the Bushfires Management Act, recommends measures to the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources for effective fire mitigation and management on all Territory land apart from urban emergency response areas serviced by the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service. Its members are appointed by the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources.

Regional bushfires committees

Under the Bushfires Management Act 2016, regional bushfires committees are established in the 5 regional fire management zones to recommend measures to mitigate, manage and suppress bushfires to the Bushfires Council in its fire management zone and endorse regional bushfire management plans prepared by Bushfires NT. Its members are appointed by the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources.

Pastoral Land Board

The Pastoral Land Board is established under section 11 of the Pastoral Land Act and monitors the condition and use of pastoral land to ensure its sustainable use and economic viability. Its members are appointed by the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources.

Weed advisory committees

Weed advisory committees are established under section 16 of the *Weeds Management Act 2001*. Its members are appointed by the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources. During 2019-20 only the Gamba Grass Weeds Advisory Committee was established.

Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA)

The NT EPA is an independent statutory authority established in 2013 under the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act (NT EPA Act) to protect the environment.

Its objectives are to promote ecologically sustainable development, effective waste management and minimisation strategies, and enhance community and business confidence in the Territory's environment protection regime.

Its members are appointed by the Administrator of the Northern Territory, with the exception of the Chairperson of the Northern Territory Planning Commission, who is appointed by the Northern Territory Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics in accordance with the *Planning Act 1999*.

The NT EPA:

- advises the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources on matters relating to ecologically sustainable development and the protection of the environment
- assesses the environmental impacts of developments
- administers the Container Deposit Scheme under the Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Act 2011
- manages the impacts of waste and pollution on the environment through the Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998

NON-STATUTORY COMMITTEES AND BODIES

Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

The Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee provides advice on an integrated research and monitoring plan to inform management of Darwin Harbour and protect the aquatic environment and critical habitats at risk from climate change. Its members are appointed by the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources.

Lhere Mparntwe (Todd River) Working Group

The Lhere Mparntwe (Todd River) Working Group developed a strategy to promote effective use and management of the natural resources of the Lhere Mparntwe (Todd River) and its immediate catchment (including the Charles River) within the town of Alice Springs. The Working Group was finalised in October 2019 and has been replaced with the Lhere Mparntwe (Todd River) Strategy Implementation Advisory Group

Aboriginal Land Management Advisory Group

The Aboriginal Land Management Advisory Group (ALMAG) provides advice and recommendations to the department on all relevant aspects of the development, implementation, delivery and reporting of the Aboriginal Ranger Grants Programs under the Protecting Country, Creating Jobs initiative.

Alice Springs Town Basin Water Availability Working Group

The Alice Springs Town Basin Working Group was established in November 2019 by the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources to review the current use of Town Basin water, consider efficiency measures and provide advice to the Minister about potential options to augment the basin water supply to drought proof the town. It finalised a report for the Minister in June 2020.

CORPORATE PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Organisation structure

The Chief Executive Officer is supported by the Governance Board through a clearly defined organisation structure. The organisation structure is published on the department's intranet and is shown on page 10.

Strategic Plan 2017-20

The Strategic Plan as shown on pages 8-9 sets out the department's strategic direction and priorities, including key priorities and deliverables set by the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources and government. The plan provides a holistic view of the department's strategic priorities with a broader focus on themes rather than specific service lines. The 6 strategic priorities give stronger emphasis on the importance of working in partnership with our stakeholders, the community and across the department.

Strategic Workforce Development Plan 2016-20

The Strategic Workforce Development Plan 2016-20 has actionable strategies to address current and future workforce challenges. Priorities outlined in the plan are leadership, diversity, culture and workforce planning for the future.

A key challenge for the department is to ensure our workforce has the capacity and capability to deliver against the strategic priorities set by government.

Aboriginal Employment Strategy 2016-20

The Aboriginal Employment Strategy focuses on sourcing and developing the right people and ensuring they have a supportive, sensitive and appropriate workplace to grow and develop in.

The strategy aims to increase Aboriginal employment in the department in all occupations, levels of employment and locations, improve Aboriginal workforce capability, and grow the department into a mature and culturally competent workplace.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Strategic Plan 2015-19

The ICT Strategic Plan will be re-developed in 2019-20. Divisional ICT roadmaps are being finalised, providing a business focused bottom up approach to the strategy design. Upon completion of these roadmaps, work will start on a whole of department data strategy and enterprise architecture. These roadmaps and strategies will be used to inform the new ICT Strategic Plan.

Business plans

Business plans are developed for divisions and individual business units. They outline actions and projects aligned with the department's strategic plan and contribute to its objectives. Business plans are developed in consultation with staff, with tasks

flowing through to executive contract and staff performance reviews.

Annual Strategic Risk Assessment

The ability to remain responsive to risk is a priority for the department.

The annual Strategic Risk Assessment was centred on the department's Risk Management Framework. This framework guided the assessment of identified risks within the current operating and internal control environment, with treatments identified for all new and emerging risks.

Agreed risks and treatment actions were detailed in the department's Strategic Risk Register. The audit of controls in place for managing risks was considered when developing the department's Internal Audit Plan.

Throughout 2019-20, the Governance Board reviewed the department's strategic risks and considered any new and emerging risks.

The Risk Management Framework is accessible to all department divisions to guide their management of risks specific to their operations.

Detailed Work Health and Safety (WHS) risk registers for each division are managed by divisional WHS committees.

COVID-19

In line with the Northern Territory Government's commitment to keep Territorians healthy and safe and to protect businesses and jobs as well as keep the Territory on the road to recovery, the department's Governance Board developed and released its COVID-19 Response Plan. The Response Plan informed staff of measures and requirements to ensure their health and safety; ensure the department's compliance with the Australian and Northern Territory government's directions pertaining to COVID-19 whilst ensuring critical business continuity; provide guidance for implementation of the department's priority and critical activities; and ensure communication methods were streamlined to ensure consistency of messaging.

The Response Plan and messaging was updated as circumstances changed and this was communicated to staff through regular communiques from the CEO.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS

Internal communications

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) produces a monthly e-newsletter to promote department news, staff achievements, and project and program outcomes. The newsletter is emailed to all department staff and placed on the intranet. All staff are encouraged to contribute articles and information each month. In 2019-20, 7 newsletters were published.

Following the impact of COVID-19 in March 2020, the 'CE Newsletter' was replaced with a regular Governance Board COVID-19 Advice, which provided staff with updates on the impacts of COVID-19 on the department and the Northern Territory more generally.

Other internal communication and information sharing activities include corporate communication emails to provide information to staff about important warnings or events. This information is also published on the intranet.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 the Senior Leaders Forum was cancelled in 2020.

External communications tools

Bushfires NT produces a newsletter each month called Hot Topics which has been in production since May 2015. The newsletter provides a regular update of interesting stories and events from Bushfires NT and the bushfires brigade volunteers.

Volunteers are encouraged to supply articles and achievements each month.

The department regularly contributes to other government department newsletters, for example the Katherine Rural Review, Barkly Beef and Top Paddock.

The Pastoral Land Board also prepares a newsletter for pastoralists and stakeholders, providing an update or overview of topical issues affecting Northern Territory pastoralists.

Future priorities

- Review all division's online content to increase user accessibility and satisfaction.
- Ongoing improvement of content on the department and nt.gov.au website.
- Continue to improve communications with the general public through the department's social media accounts, and engagement with digital content.
- Increasing the profile of the expertise of staff within the department.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Corporate governance accountabilities

The department is required to comply with the Financial Management Act, Public Sector Employment and Management Act, *Procurement Act 1995* and other legislation, such as the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1992* and the Work Health And Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act.

The department's corporate governance framework and the relevant statutes are promoted to staff in many ways, including through the department's induction programs.

Internal controls

The department has a number of internal control mechanisms in place to mitigate workplace risks.

Corporate delegations

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) delegates certain powers to other employees under the Financial Management Act 1995, Public Sector Employment and Management Act 1993, Contracts Act 1978 and Procurement Act 1995. In 2019-20, the following CEO approved delegations were in place:

- Human Resources delegations
- Procurement and Contract delegations
- Financial delegations
- Information (Records) Security delegations

Conflict of interest

Conflicts of interest, whether real or perceived, can erode confidence in the department's integrity. All employees are responsible for declaring any conflicts. Employees, executive directors and branch managers must also take all reasonable steps to prevent involvement in the declared conflicts.

Whistle blowers

Staff can report wrongdoing in accordance with the *Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2017*. As at 30 June 2020, the department's Executive Officer, was the department's Protected Disclosure Officer.

Code of conduct

Through internal training, such as the corporate induction program, staff are regularly reminded of their responsibility to act in accordance with the Northern Territory Public Service Code of Conduct.

Freedom of information and privacy

In accordance with the Information Act, a range of Northern Territory Government policies and procedures are in place to enable individuals to access records and information held by the department.

Accounting and property manual

In accordance with the Financial Management Act, the department has an Accounting and Property Manual that specifies finance procedures and internal control requirements. The Accounting and Property Manual was updated in 2019-20 and made available on the department's intranet.



INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Information requests

The department is subject to the Information Act (the Act) and is required to meet the obligations placed on it under the Act.

Members of the public can gain access to documents or records held by the department through Freedom of Information requests unless the document is within an exception or exemption category specified in the legislation.

The Act also defines strict timeframes for dealing with these requests for information.

During 2019-20, the department received 14 applications for access to government or personal information under the Act.

The table below provides statistical data about the formal access applications the department received.

INFORMATION ACT REQUESTS	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Applications carried over from previous year	-	1	4
Applications to access personal information	-	-	2
Applications to access government information	12*	12	12
Applications to access personal and government information	-	2	-
Applications to correct personal information	-	-	-
Applications transferred	-	-	6
Requests withdrawn	1	1	-
Requests refused	-	-	-
Internal reviews	-	-	-
Responses completed within 30-day period	10	10	5
Responses completed exceeding 30-day period	-	-	4
Applications handled as at 30 June	10	10	9
Applications pending	1	4	3

* 2 relate to the same issue

Ombudsman enquiries

The department received 1 enquiry from the Ombudsman during the reporting year.

MONITORING THROUGH AUDITS AND REVIEWS

Internal audits

The following risk-based internal audits were conducted under the department's 2019-20 Internal Audit Plan. Management implementation of audit recommendations is monitored by the department's Audit and Risk Management Committee.

INTERNAL AUDIT	FOCUS	OUTCOME
Official Duty Travel July to December 2019	Review of the department's official duty travel against the Northern Territory Government Air Travel Policy.	The audit found a 'satisfactory' level of compliance. Recommendations were made to improve existing controls.
NTG Agency Report – Breaches of Cabinet Information Security	NTG Agency Report – Breaches of Cabinet Information Security	The audit found a 'satisfactory' level of compliance. No breaches were identified.
Value for Territory Assurance Program 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019	To assess the department's compliance with the Northern Territory Government Procurement Framework, Buy Local Plan and agency procurement and contract delegations.	The audit found a level of 'some improvement required'. Recommendations were made to improve existing controls.
Granting of an Unzoned Land Clearing Permit Under the Planning Act	To assess the level of compliance of whether the granting of Permits for the clearing of native vegetation were made in accordance with the requirements set out in the Planning Act, the Northern Territory Planning Scheme, the Land Clearing Guidelines and any other relevant Northern Territory Government policies.	The audit found a level of compliance of 'satisfactory'. Recommendations were made to improve existing controls.
Audit of a decision to grant a Waste Discharge Licence under the Water Act	To assess the level of compliance of whether grants of Waste Discharge Licences were made in accordance with the requirements for licences set out in the Water Act, the Water Regulations 1992, the Guidelines on Waste Discharge Licences under the Water Act and relevant Northern Territory Government policies.	The audit was commenced in the 2019-20 financial year; however, was unable to be completed by the 30 June 2020 deadline. A request for extension until 31 August 2020 was granted by the Chief Executive Officer and the audit outcomes will be included in the 2020-21 financial year.

Northern Territory Auditor-General audits

The Office of the Northern Territory Auditor-General selected the department for the following external audits during 2019-20. Audit results are published in the Auditor-General's reports to the Legislative Assembly.

INTERNAL AUDIT	FOCUS	OUTCOME
Agency Compliance Audit ending 30 June 2020	To assess compliance against the Financial Management Act and other Northern Territory Government policies and directives.	The audit found a 'satisfactory' level of compliance. Recommendations were made to improve existing controls.
End of Year Review 30 June 2019	To assess the adequacy of selected aspects of end of financial year controls over reporting, accounting and material financial transactions and balances with the primary purpose of providing support to the audit of the Treasurer's Annual Financial Statement.	The audit found a 'satisfactory' level of compliance. Recommendations were made to improve existing controls.
Performance Management System Audit	To assess the performance management systems of the agency.	The audit found a 'satisfactory' level of compliance. Recommendations were made to further enhance the effectiveness of management and monitoring of performance measures.

Records management

The Chief Executive Officer of a public sector organisation has a duty to ensure that the organisation complies with Part 9 of the Information Act. The Records and Information Management Standards require agencies to comply with core principles for the effective management of records and information. This is to ensure records are disposed of in accordance with the Information Act. All organisational records, including records in business systems, must be covered by a current and authorised records disposal schedule and be reviewed when major legislative or policy change affects the regulatory environment.

Insurable risk

In accordance with Treasurer's Directions M2.1 Insurance Arrangements, the department is required to detail mitigation strategies and processes it has in place to reduce the likelihood or severity of its insurable risks. Insurable risks are generally related to workers compensation, assets and inventories, public liability and indemnities. They exclude financial risks and legal costs in action.

The table below outlines the department's identified insurable risks and the strategies implemented to reduce those risks.

INSURABLE RISK CATEGORY	MITIGATION STRATEGIES	TOTAL VALUE / TOTAL NUMBER OF CLAIMS 2019-20
Public liability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal risk assessments completed Repairs and maintenance program in place to reduce risks associated with physical assets, managed by DIPL Ongoing review of practices and procedures to ensure public safety Appropriate signage Education campaigns for staff Building audits, for example security, maintenance, compliance Appropriate security and testing, for example fire systems, alarms, patrols and staff 	Nil claims
Workers' compensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal risk assessments completed Workplace health and safety (WHS) framework in place WHS policies and standard operating procedures in place Work site assessments Job-specific training and support Utilisation of Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Early intervention program Critical incident debriefings Work life balance strategies 	In 2019-20, 1 new workers compensation claim was submitted. There were 3 carry over claims from the previous year and 2 claims reopened. There were 3 claims and 1 claim was settled. As at 30 June 2020, 2 claims remain open.
Asset and inventories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal risk assessments completed Ongoing review of policies and practices to guide standard operating procedures to protect assets and inventories Asset registers maintained for fixed and leased assets 	Nil claims
Vehicles (for example motor vehicles, ATVs and boats)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular service and maintenance checks Driving training (4 wheel drives, ATVs, boat handling) 	15 Internal claims valued at \$24,433
Indemnities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal risk assessments completed each year and with each new agreement 	Nil claims

Commercial insurance premium

	TOTAL NUMBER TOTAL VALUE OF CLAIMS		
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Department – overseas travel insurance, small value one-off insurance	\$123 Nil claims	\$92 Nil claims	\$13 Nil claims
Department – workers compensation	\$393,007 11	\$390,000 8	\$390,000 6
Water Resources Division – renew Industrial Special Plant Insurance Policy for Atlas Copco Drill Rig	\$6,097 Nil claims	\$8,292 Nil claims	\$8,715 Nil claims

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OVERVIEW

This section of the report provides an analysis of the financial outcome of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the year ended 30 June 2020. The department's financial performance is reported in four financial statements: They are the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement.

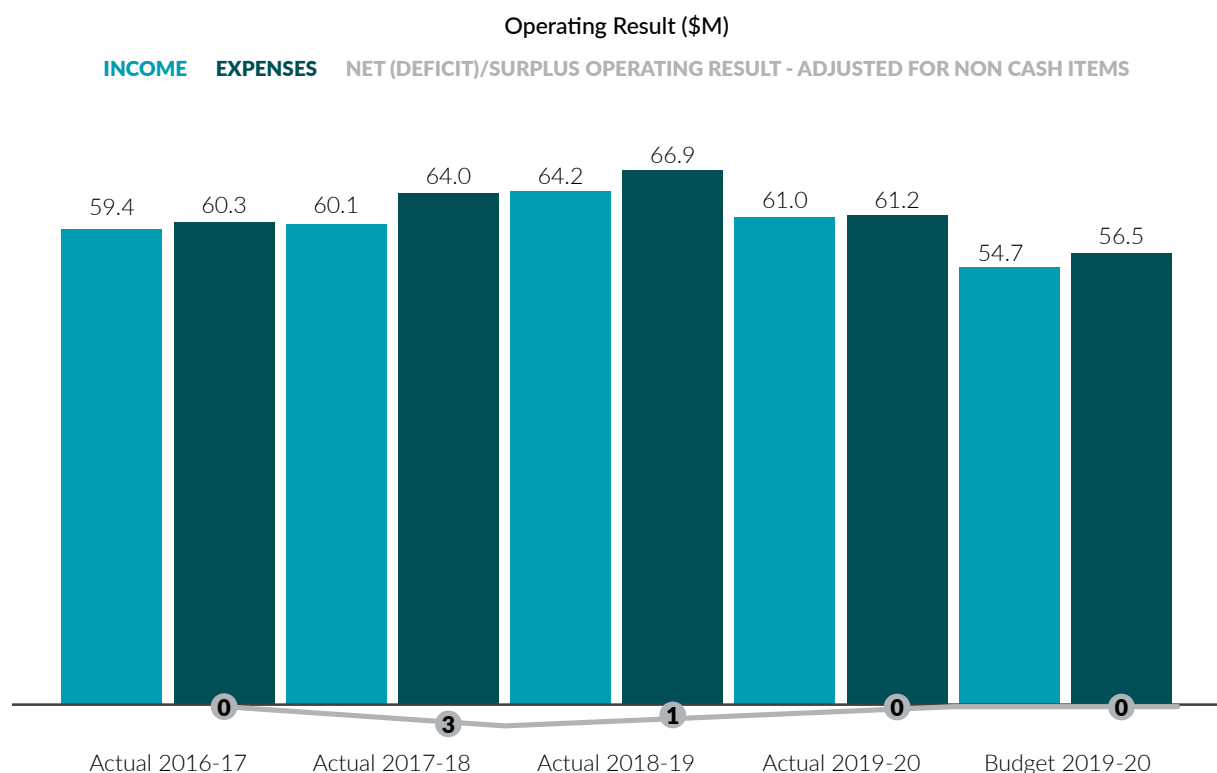
The department includes the following outputs:

- Flora and Fauna
- Rangelands
- Water Resources
- Bushfires NT
- Environment
- Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority
- Corporate and Governance
- Shared Services Received



COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT

Operating result (\$m)



In 2019-20, the department made a net operating loss of \$0.2m, or a loss of \$0.054m prior to the charging of non-cash items such as depreciation, and non-capitalised assets, as well as non-cash income relating to assets acquired at nil consideration. This compares to a budgeted loss before non-cash items of \$1.7m.

The cause of the variation is primarily due to the assets acquired for nil consideration as a result in the change of management of the Volunteer Bushfires Brigade fleet. There was also a myriad of changes to the budget throughout the year in relation to additional funding and subsequent expenditure.

The four year trend in the operating results and the 2019-20 budget are as follows:

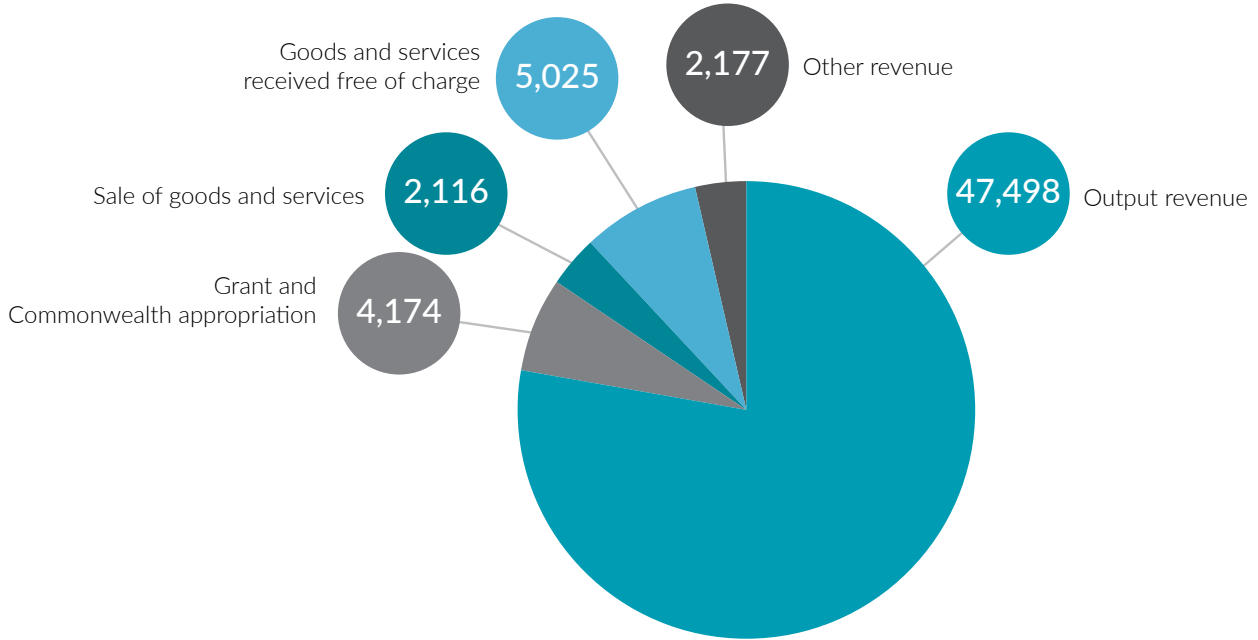
	ACTUAL 2016-17 \$'000	ACTUAL 2017-18 \$'000	ACTUAL 2018-19 \$'000	ACTUAL 2019-20 \$'000	BUDGET ¹ 2019-20 \$'000
Income	59,396	60,104	64,232	60,990	54,744
Expenses	60,323	64,018	66,883	61,185	56,459
Net Deficit Operating result	(927)	(3,914)	(2,651)	(195)	(1,715)
Net (Deficit)/Surplus Operating result - adjusted for non-cash items	202	(2,650)	(551)	(54)	(6)

¹ Based on 2019-20 Budget Paper 3, May 2019

INCOME

The department received income of \$61m in 2019-20, \$6.2m more than the original budget, and a decrease of \$3.2m compared to 2018-19.

2019-20 income by source (\$'000)



2019-20 Income by source (\$'000)

The department is funded primarily through Northern Territory Parliamentary output appropriation. Revenue is also derived from sales of goods and services, current grants and Commonwealth appropriation and other miscellaneous income. This includes notional revenue for services provided by the Department of Corporate and Information Services (DCIS) and Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistic (DIPL).

Output revenue

In 2019-20, output revenue of \$47m was received, \$0.4m more than the original budget in 2019-20 Budget Paper 3.

Output revenue decreased from 2018-19 by \$4.0m, primarily due to program review saving measures, Machinery of Government (MOG) changes, parameters and efficiency dividends, transfer of funds to 2020-21 for Aboriginal Ranger Land Management Conservation multi-year grants, and net changes in funding for government projects.

Grants and Commonwealth appropriation

The department attracted 7% of its revenue from external sources. In 2019-20, \$4.1m was received, including \$0.2m from the Commonwealth Government. This external revenue is higher than the approved budget by \$1m and is \$1.8m less than 2018-19.

Some of the key externally funded projects in 2019-20 include:

- West Arnhem Fire Monitoring Agreement
- Bushfires Volunteer Strategy
- Wildfire Risk in Remote Communities
- National Water Infrastructure Development Fund
- INPEX Dolphin and Dugong Monitoring
- National Environment Science Program Northern Australia Environmental Resource Hub (NESP NAERH) Projects
- Territory Natural Resource Management - Central Rock-rat in the West MacDonnell Ranges
- INPEX Darwin Harbour Integrated Marine Monitoring and Research Program
- National Pollutant Inventory

Sale of goods and services

In 2019-20, income from the sale of goods and services totalled \$2.1m, \$1.2m more than the approved budget and \$0.4m less than 2018-19.

The increase to budget was primarily a result of sourcing further projects after the May 2019 budget was handed down.

Goods and services received free of charge

In 2019-20, notional goods and services received free of charge totalled \$5m, including \$4.8m from DCIS and \$0.2m DIPL, which is \$1.4m higher than the approved budget and \$1.3m more than 2018-19. The increase is a result of centralisation of Human Resources, Information Technology, Records Management, and Fleet to DCIS, and Infrastructure functions to DIPL.

There is a corresponding expense, resulting in a net nil effect to the department operating result.

Four year trend

The four year trend in income streams and the 2019-20 budget are as follows:

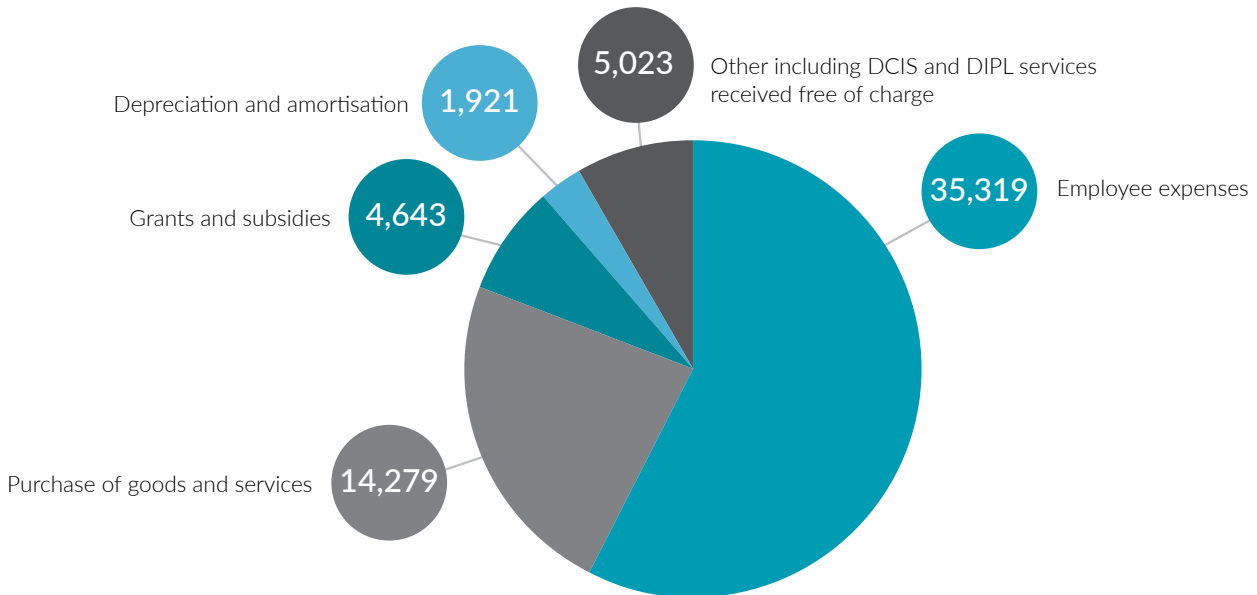
INCOME TYPE	ACTUAL 2016-17 \$'000	ACTUAL 2017-18 \$'000	ACTUAL 2018-19 \$'000	ACTUAL 2019-20 \$'000	PRIOR YEAR VARIANCE %	BUDGET ¹ 2019-20 \$'000	BUDGET VARIANCE %
Output revenue	46,241	49,082	51,565	47,498	(8%)	47,042	1%
Grant & Commonwealth appropriation	6,606	5,068	5,969	4,174	(30%)	3,076	36%
Sale of goods and services	2,568	2,094	2,565	2,116	(18%)	952	122%
Goods and Services Received Free of Charge	3,885	3,774	3,698	5,025	36%	3,674	37%
Other revenue	96	86	435	2,177	400%	-	(100%)
Income total	59,396	60,104	64,232	60,990	(5%)	54,744	11%

¹ Based on 2019-20 Budget Paper 3, May 2019.

EXPENSES

The department incurred \$61.2m in expenses during 2019-20 in the delivery of its programs and services. This was \$4.7m more than budget and \$5.7m less than 2018-19.

2019-20 expenses by source (\$'000)



2019-20 Expenses by Source \$'000

Payments to employees and purchase of goods and services account for 81% of the department's outlays. Payments of grants and subsidies is the other major departmental expenses, with depreciation, and charges levied by Department of Corporate and Information Services (DCIS) and Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL) representing non-cash transactions.

Employee expenses

Staffing costs represent 58% of total expenditure or \$35.3m, \$3m greater than budget and a \$1.4m decrease from 2018-19.

The increase to budget was due to additional revenue sourced after the May 2019 budget which allowed for greater spend.

The decrease from the prior year is primarily due to Machinery of Government (MOG) centralisation of Human Resources, Information Technology, and Records Management to DCIS.

Goods and services expenses

Actual spend on the purchase of goods and services in 2019-20 was \$14.3m, \$1.5m more than budget and \$1.3m less than 2018-19.

The increase to budget was due to additional revenue sourced after the May 2019 budget which allowed for greater spend.

This decrease from prior year was primarily due to MOG changes, program review saving measures, and decrease in funding for National Water Infrastructure Development.

Grants and subsidies

In 2019-20 the department distributed \$4.6m in grants and subsidies, \$0.9m less than budget and \$3.3m less than 2018-19.

The reduction in grants paid out from 2018-19 was due to the cessation of the Aboriginal Rangers Capital Grants in 2018-19, reduction in funding from the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund, and the reclassification and type of support Bushfires NT provides to their Volunteer Bushfire Brigades.

For a full breakdown of grant payments refer to Appendix 3 .

Repairs and maintenance

The decrease in repairs and maintenance is a result of the function being transferred to Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL) in July 2019.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation and amortisation is the allocation of an asset's cost over its useful life. In 2019-20 depreciation was \$1.9m, \$0.2m more than budget and \$0.2m less than 2018-19. The decrease in depreciation is a result of decrease in the asset base. Depreciation costs represent 3% of total expenditure.

Goods and services received free of charge

In 2019-20, notional goods and services received free of charge totalled \$5m, including \$4.8m from DCIS and \$0.2m from DIPL, \$1.3m more than budget and \$1.3m more than 2018-19. This is primarily due to the MOG changes and is offset against revenue received free of charge.

Four year trend

The four year expenditure trend and the 2019-20 budget are as follows:

EXPENDITURE TYPE	ACTUAL 2016-17 \$'000	ACTUAL 2017-18 \$'000	ACTUAL 2018-19 \$'000	ACTUAL 2019-20 \$'000	PRIOR YEAR VARIANCE %	ORIGINAL BUDGET ¹ 2019-20 \$'000	BUDGET VARIANCE %
Employee expenses	32,875	34,544	36,734	35,319	(4%)	32,306	9%
Purchase of goods and services	15,320	15,137	15,564	14,279	(8%)	12,799	12%
Repairs and maintenance expenses	1,765	1,035	826	-	(100%)	380	(100%)
Grants and subsidies	5,333	8,263	7,972	4,643	(42%)	5,591	(17%)
Depreciation and amortisation	1,106	1,229	2,101	1,921	(9%)	1,709	12%
Other including DCIS and DIPL services received free of charge	3,924	3,810	3,686	5,023	36%	3,674	37%
Expenses total	60,323	64,018	66,883	61,185	(9%)	56,459	(8%)

¹ Based on 2019-20 Budget Paper 3, May 2019.

BALANCE SHEET

The Balance Sheet provides a summary of the department's balances at the end of the financial year for assets, liabilities and equity.

The balances reported are the net worth to Government of the departments' asset holdings (what is owned) against liabilities (what is owed).

The four year trend for net assets/equity is as follows:

	ACTUAL 2016-17 \$'000	ACTUAL 2017-18 \$'000	ACTUAL 2018-19 \$'000	ACTUAL 2019-20 \$'000
Assets	21,855	20,730	20,143	21,733
Liabilities	(8,352)	(8,027)	(7,183)	(8,129)
Net assets/equity	13,503	12,703	12,960	13,604

Assets

The department's assets at 30 June 2020 totalled \$21.7m. The balance of assets consists of:

- Cash balances of \$1.4m, representing cash held in a financial institution
- Receivables of \$2m representing the amount that is owed to the department for goods and services provided and delivered
- Prepaid expenses of \$0.3m representing expenses that have been paid before the good or service was received or provided
- Property, plant, equipment and computer software of \$18m.

Liabilities

The department's liabilities at 30 June 2020 totalled \$8.1m. The balance of liabilities consists of:

- Deposits held of \$0.5m predominately to recognise the liability for Natural Heritage Trust Single Holding Account held on behalf of the Australian Government
- Payables of \$2.1m representing the amount owed to creditors for goods and services purchased and received
- Provisions for employee entitlements of \$5.3m, such as recreation leave, leave loading and leave fares to reflect the cost in present day dollars of employee entitlements that are to be paid in the future
- Unearned revenue of \$0.2m representing the amount received for services not yet provided.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

The statement of changes in equity reflects movements in equity balances during the year.

Equity as at 30 June 2020 is \$13.6m, a decrease in net worth of \$0.6m from the previous year.

This decrease relates to:

- \$0.6m transfer in of completed minor new works
- \$1m appropriation to purchase capital items offset by
- \$0.2m operating loss for 2019-20 financial year
- \$0.2m assets transferred to DCIS as a result of machinery of government
- \$0.6m reduction in assets revaluation reserve

	ACTUAL 2016-17 \$'000	ACTUAL 2017-18 \$'000	ACTUAL 2018-19 \$'000	ACTUAL 2019-20 \$'000
Balance of equity at 1 July	12,291	13,503	12,703	12,960
Net equity injections	2,209	3,114	2,908	1,465
Movement in reserves	(70)	-	-	(626)
Accumulated funds	(927)	(3,914)	(2,651)	(195)
Balance of equity at 30 June	13,503	12,703	12,960	13,604

CASHFLOW STATEMENT

The cash flow statement provides information on how cash was received and spent during the year. The figures in the cash flow statement vary to those in the comprehensive operating statement as the cash flow statement only includes cash transactions. The comprehensive operating statement includes non-cash items such as depreciation, non-cash adjustments for employee entitlements and notional charges for services received free of charge from Department of Corporate and Information Services and Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics.

The department's cash balances were \$1.4m at 30 June 2020. The cash flows are summarised as follows:

	ACTUAL 2016-17 \$'000	ACTUAL 2017-18 \$'000	ACTUAL 2018-19 \$'000	ACTUAL 2019-20 \$'000
Cash In				
Operating receipts	57,389	57,281	62,069	55,412
Equity injections/capital appropriation/deposits	1,809	503	1,840	992
Proceeds from assets sales	-	-	146	50
	59,198	57,784	64,055	56,454
Cash Out				
Operating payments	(57,219)	(61,144)	(63,422)	(54,783)
Purchase of fixed assets	(1,160)	(478)	(1,803)	(842)
Equity withdrawals/ deposits refunded	(1,594)	(48)	-	-
	(59,973)	(61,670)	(65,225)	(55,625)
Net increase/ (decrease) in cash held	(775)	(3,886)	(1,170)	829
Cash at beginning of financial year	6,438	5,663	1,777	607
Cash at end of financial year	5,663	1,777	607	1,436

CERTIFICATE OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We certify that the attached financial statements for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources have been prepared based on proper accounts and records in accordance with the prescribed format, the Financial Management Act 1995 and Treasurer's Directions.

We further state that the information set out in the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement, and notes to and forming part of the financial statements, presents fairly the financial performance and cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2020 and the financial position on that date.

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



Joanne Townsend
Chief Executive Officer
31 August 2020



Cynthia Loganathan
Chief Financial Officer
31 August 2020

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	NOTE	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Income			
Grants and subsidies revenue			
Current	4a	3,974	3,471
Appropriation	4b		
Output		47,498	51,565
Commonwealth		200	2,498
Sales of goods and services	4c	2,116	2,565
Goods and services received free of charge	5	5,025	3,698
Gain on disposal of assets	6	30	146
Other income	4d	2,147	289
Total Income	3	60,990	64,232
Expenses			
Employee expenses		35,319	36,734
Administrative expenses			
Purchases of goods and services	7	14,279	15,564
Repairs and maintenance		-	826
Depreciation and amortisation	14, 16	1,921	2,101
Other administrative expenses ¹		5,023	3,686
Grants and subsidies expenses			
Current		4,643	6,040
Capital		-	1,932
Total Expenses	3	61,185	66,883
Net Deficit Operating Result		(195)	(2,651)
Other Comprehensive Income			
Asset revaluation reserve	14	(626)	-
Comprehensive Operating Result		(821)	(2,651)

¹ Includes DCIS Service Charges.

The comprehensive operating statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET

As at 30 June 2020

	NOTE	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and deposits	9	1,436	607
Receivables	11	1,957	1,770
Inventories	12	14	6
Prepayments		296	237
Total Current Assets		3,703	2,620
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	14	17,439	16,684
Intangibles	16	591	839
Total Non-Current Assets	24	18,030	17,523
Total Assets		21,733	20,143
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Deposits held	17	464	464
Payables	18	2,128	1,212
Provisions	20	5,324	5,150
Other liabilities	21	213	357
Total Current Liabilities		8,129	7,183
Non-Current Liabilities			
Other liabilities		-	-
Total Non-Current Liabilities		-	-
Total Liabilities		8,129	7,183
Net Assets		13,604	12,960
Equity			
Capital		95,126	93,661
Asset revaluation surplus	23	2,913	3,539
Accumulated funds		(84,435)	(84,240)
Total Equity		13,604	12,960

The balance sheet is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the year ended 30 June 2020

2019-20	NOTE	EQUITY AT 1 JULY \$'000	COMPREHENSIVE RESULT \$'000	TRANSACTIONS WITH OWNERS IN THEIR CAPACITY AS OWNERS \$'000	EQUITY AT 30 JUNE \$'000
Accumulated Funds		(84,240)	(195)	-	(84,435)
Reserves					
Asset revaluation surplus	23	3,539	(626)	-	2,913
Capital - Transactions with Owners		93,661	-	-	93,661
Equity injections					
Capital appropriation		-	-	987	987
Equity transfers in		-	-	653	653
Equity transfers out		-	-	(175)	(175)
		93,661	-	1,465	95,126
Total Equity at End of Financial Year		12,960	(821)	1,465	13,604

2018-19	NOTE	EQUITY AT 1 JULY \$'000	COMPREHENSIVE RESULT \$'000	TRANSACTIONS WITH OWNERS IN THEIR CAPACITY AS OWNERS \$'000	EQUITY AT 30 JUNE \$'000
Accumulated funds		(81,589)	(2,651)	-	(84,240)
Reserves					
Asset revaluation surplus	23	3,539	-	-	3,539
Capital - transactions with owners		90,753	-	-	90,753
Equity injections					
Capital appropriation		-	-	1,840	1,840
Equity transfers in		-	-	1,180	1,180
Equity transfers out		-	-	(112)	(112)
		90,753	-	2,908	93,661
Total equity at end of financial year		12,703	(2,651)	2,908	12,960

The statement of changes in equity is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	NOTE	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Operating receipts			
Grants and subsidies received			
Current		3,974	3,471
Appropriation			
Output		47,498	51,565
Commonwealth		200	2,498
Other receipts from sales of goods and services		3,740	4,536
Total operating receipts		55,412	62,070
Operating payments			
Payments to employees		(34,933)	(36,981)
Payments for goods and services		(15,207)	(18,469)
Grants and subsidies paid			
Current		(4,643)	(6,040)
Capital		-	(1,932)
Total operating payments		(54,783)	(63,422)
Net cash (used in) operating activities	10	629	(1,352)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Investing receipts			
Proceeds from asset sales		50	145
Total investing receipts		50	145
Investing payments			
Purchases of assets	14, 16	(842)	(1,803)
Total investing payments		(842)	(1,803)
Net cash (used in) investing activities		(792)	(1,658)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Financing receipts			
Equity injections			
Capital appropriations		987	1,840
Other equity injections		5	-
Total financing receipts		992	1,840
Financing payments			
Equity withdrawals		-	-
Total financing payments		-	-
Net cash from financing activities		992	1,840
Net (decrease) in cash held		829	(1,170)
Cash at beginning of financial year	9	607	1,777
Cash at end of financial year		1,436	607

The cash flow statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2020

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1. OBJECTIVES AND FUNDING

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources provides natural resource monitoring, management and advice, including scientific assessment of flora, fauna, land and water assets, and the allocation and management of these resources to enable their sustainable use.

The agency provides assessment, monitoring and compliance support and services on behalf of the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) to support environmentally sustainable development. To be effective, we need a strong partnership approach. It is through partnerships with landholders, across Government and with our external stakeholders, that we will meet our priorities in managing our natural resources, for the benefit of all Territorians.

Agency goals are as follows:

1. Strategically improve scientific and community knowledge and understanding of water, soils, landscapes and biodiversity to better inform their management.
2. Advise on the effective planning, allocation, conservation and use of the Northern Territory's natural resources.
3. Develop and deliver robust and transparent assessment and regulation that balance the development of the Northern Territory with effective protection of the Northern Territory's unique environmental assets.
4. Foster and sustain community participation from all regions of the Territory in sustainable natural resource use and management.
5. Manage and mitigate threats to regional communities and our natural ecosystems and native flora and fauna through shared responsibilities and partnerships.
6. Maintain an organisation with the capacity and capability to deliver effective services and that nurtures its human resources.

Additional information in relation to the agency and its principal activities can be found elsewhere in the annual report.

The agency is predominantly funded by, and dependent on, the receipt of Parliamentary appropriation. The financial statements encompass all funds through which the agency controls resources to carry on its functions and deliver outputs. For reporting purposes, the agency includes the following outputs:

- Flora and Fauna
- Rangelands
- Water Resources
- Bushfires NT
- Environment
- Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (Statutory Authority)
- Corporate and Governance
- Shared Services Received

In 2019-20 shared services increased to encompass Human Resources, Information and Communication Technology, Fleet, and Infrastructure functions.

Note 3 provides summary financial information in the form of the comprehensive operating statement by output.

(a) Machinery of government changes

Transfers out

Details of transfer: Human Resources and Information and Communication Technology units transferred to the Department of Corporate and Information Services.

Basis of transfer: Administrative Arrangements Order 27 June 2019

Date of transfer: Effective from 1 July 2019

The assets and liabilities transferred as a result of this change were as follows:

	\$'000
Assets	
Cash	157
Receivables	-
Property, plant and equipment	175
Liabilities	
Payables	-
Provisions	157
Other liabilities	-
Net assets	175

2. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Statement of compliance

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

- (i) a certification of the financial statements
- (ii) a comprehensive operating statement
- (iii) a balance sheet
- (iv) a statement of changes in equity
- (v) a cash flow statement
- (vi) applicable explanatory notes to the financial statements.

(b) Basis of accounting

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

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

The form of the agency financial statements is also consistent with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards. The effects of all relevant new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that are effective for the current annual reporting period have been evaluated.

Standards and interpretations effective from 2019-20

AASB 15 Revenue from contracts with a customer / AASB 1058 Income for not-for-profit entities

AASB 15 Revenue from contracts with customers (AASB 15) supersedes AASB 111 Construction contracts, AASB 118 Revenue and related interpretations and applies, with limited exceptions, to all revenue arising from contracts with customers. Under AASB 15 revenue from agreements that are enforceable, have sufficiently specific performance obligations and transfer goods or services to the customer or third party beneficiary will be recognised when or as performance obligations are satisfied. AASB 15 requires entities to exercise judgement, taking into consideration all of the relevant facts and circumstances when assessing contracts with their customers.

AASB 1058 Income for not-for-profit entities (AASB 1058) clarifies and simplifies income-recognition requirements that apply to not-for-profit entities and replaces most of the not-for-profit provisions under AASB 1004 Contributions. AASB 1058 applies to transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than fair value principally to enable the entity to further its objectives, and where volunteer services are received.

In contrast with previous standards such as AASB 1004, AASB 1058 allows deferral of income from capital grants where there is an enforceable contract with sufficiently specific performance obligations and the agreement does not require the agency to transfer the asset to other parties. For such capital grants, the funding received is initially deferred in an unearned revenue liability and subsequently recognised as revenue as or when the agency satisfies obligations under the agreement. Where funding is received from another Territory Government-controlled entity other than Commonwealth funds on-passed by the Central Holding Authority, revenue is recognised upfront on receipt.

Under AASB 1058, the agency will continue to recognise volunteer services only when the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated, and the fair value of those services can be measured reliably. This treatment is consistent with treatment in prior years.

The agency has applied the principles of AASB 15 and AASB 1058 in accounting for research grants for the 2019-20 reporting period. Funding for research agreements that are enforceable, have sufficiently specific performance obligations and the Territory is required to transfer goods or services to the customer or third-party beneficiary are accounted for in accordance with AASB 15. Otherwise AASB 1058

is applied. Most of the agency's research agreements have been assessed as meeting criteria under AASB 15 and revenue is recognised at a point in time.

In accordance with transition provisions, the agency has applied the modified retrospective approach on transition to AASB 15 and AASB 1058, with the cumulative effect of applying both accounting standards recognised in accumulated funds or appropriate equity code at 1 July 2019. Accordingly, the comparative information presented for 2018-19 has not been restated and is presented as previously reported. The agency applied the accounting standards retrospectively to all contracts, including completed contracts, at 1 July 2019. Completed contracts include contracts where the agency had recognised all revenue in prior periods under AASB 1004 Contributions.

The agency has no transitional impact on the adoption of AASB 15 and AASB 1058.

AASB 16 Leases

AASB 16 Leases (AASB 16) supersedes AASB 117 Leases and relevant interpretations and introduces significant changes to lessee accounting by removing the distinction between operating and finance leases. For lessees with operating leases, a right-of-use asset has now been recognised on the balance sheet together with a lease liability at the lease commencement, for all leases except for leases with a term of less than 12 months or where the underlying assets are of low value. In contrast to lessee accounting, the requirements for lessor accounting have remained largely unchanged and has not had a significant impact for leases where the agency is the lessor.

In accordance with transition provisions, the agency has applied the modified retrospective approach on transition to AASB 16. Accordingly, the comparative information presented for 2018-19 has not been restated and is presented as previously reported.

On adoption of AASB 16, the agency recognised no right-of-use assets and lease liabilities.

AASB 2016-8 Amendments to Australian accounting standards – Australian implementation guidance for not-for-profit entities (AASB 9 Financial instruments)

AASB 2016-8 is effective for the first time in 2019-20 and will require non-contractual receivables arising from statutory requirements to apply the initial recognition and measurement requirements of AASB 9. The requirements of AASB 2016-8 are largely consistent with existing recognition and measurement practices of the agency and is therefore not expected to have a material impact.

Several other amending standards and AASB interpretations have been issued that apply to the current reporting periods, but are considered to have no impact on public sector reporting.

Standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective

No Australian accounting standards have been early adopted for 2019-20.

Several other amending standards and AASB interpretations have been issued that apply to future reporting periods but are considered to have limited impact on public sector reporting.

AASB 1059 Service concession arrangement

AASB 1059 Service concession arrangements: Grantors (AASB 1059) is effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2020 and will be reported in the TAFS for the first time in 2020-21.

AASB 1059 addresses the accounting for arrangements that involve an operator providing public services related to a service concession asset on behalf of a public sector grantor for a specified period of time and managing at least some of those services. This standard also applies a new control concept to the recognition of service concession assets and related liabilities.

Where a transaction meets the definition of a service concession arrangement, a service concession asset and liability will be recognised on the balance sheet and valued in accordance with the new standard.

The agency has no service concession arrangements.

(c) Reporting entity

The financial statements cover the department as an individual reporting entity.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (the department) is a Northern Territory department established under the *Interpretation Act 1978* Administrative Arrangements Order.

The principal place of business of the department is:

1st Floor, Goyder Centre 25 Chung Wah Terrace,
PALMERSTON NT 0832

(d) Agency and Territory items

The financial statements of the department include income, expenses, assets, liabilities and equity over which the agency has control (Agency items). Certain items, while managed by the agency, are controlled and recorded by the Territory rather than the agency (Territory items). Territory items are recognised and recorded by the Central Holding Authority as discussed below.

(e) Central Holding Authority

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

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

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

The Central Holding Authority recognises and records all Territory items, and as such, these items are not included in the agency's financial statements. However, as the agency is accountable for certain Territory items managed on behalf of Government, these items have been separately disclosed in Note 29 - Schedule of Administered Territory Items.

(f) Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information for the 2018-19 financial year has been reclassified to provide consistency with current year disclosures.

(g) Presentation and rounding of amounts

Amounts in the financial statements and notes to the financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars, with amounts of less than \$500 being rounded down to zero. Figures in the financial statements and notes may not equate due to rounding.

(h) Changes in accounting policies

There have been no changes to accounting policies adopted in 2019-20 as a result of management decisions. Changes in policies relating to COVID-19 are disclosed in (l) below.

(i) Accounting judgments and estimates

The preparation of the financial report requires the making of judgments and estimates that affect the recognised amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses and the disclosure of contingent liabilities. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Judgments and estimates that have significant effects on the financial statements are disclosed in the relevant notes to the financial statements.

(j) Goods and services tax

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

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

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

(k) Contributions by and distributions to government

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

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

(l) Impact of COVID-19

Management made a number of decisions as a result of COVID-19 which has impacted the 2019-20 financial statements. The main decision was a reduction in field work to ensure safety of staff and the community.



3. Comprehensive operating statement by output

	NOTE	FLORA AND FAUNA		RANGELANDS		WATER RESOURCES		BUSHFIRES NT		ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AND POLICY		NT ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY		CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE		SHARED SERVICES RECEIVED		TOTAL				
		2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Income																						
Grants and subsidies revenue																						
Current		855	1,135	-	-	734	701	2,367	1,617	18	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,974	3,471	
Appropriation																						
Output		6,745	9,512	8,015	9,110	12,266	12,681	6,888	6,472	9,430	7,934	758	764	3,396	5,092	-	-	-	-	47,498	51,565	
Commonwealth		-	259	-	259	200	1,980	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	2,498	
Sales of goods and services		406	93	27	19	688	1,313	899	1,047	-	2	-	-	96	91	-	-	-	-	2,116	2,565	
Goods and services received free of charge	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,025	3,698	-	5,025	3,698	
Other income		2	2	233	212	3	7	1,820	37	34	4	-	-	55	27	-	-	-	-	2,147	289	
Gain on disposal of assets	6	-	-	-	-	18	1	12	145	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	146	
Total Income		8,008	11,001	8,275	9,600	13,909	16,683	11,986	9,318	9,482	7,958	758	764	3,547	5,210	5,025	3,698	5,025	3,698	60,990	64,232	
Expenses																						
Employee expenses		5,157	4,915	6,437	7,074	10,092	10,534	4,023	3,841	6,525	5,958	146	169	2,939	4,243	-	-	-	-	35,319	36,734	
Administrative expenses																						
Purchases of goods and services		1,835	2,032	1,501	1,931	3,487	4,852	4,829	3,617	1,371	1,603	564	503	692	1,026	-	-	-	-	14,279	15,564	
Repairs and maintenance		-	148	-	560	-	34	-	45	-	5	-	-	-	34	-	-	-	-	-	826	
Depreciation and amortisation	14, 16	151	128	484	1,076	477	469	616	219	188	187	-	-	5	22	-	-	-	-	1,921	2,101	
Other administrative expenses ^{(a)(b)}		1	-	-	-	-	(28)	(3)	12	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	5,025	3,698	-	5,025	3,686	
Grants and subsidies expenses																						
Current		1,394	1,853	194	58	200	720	1,895	2,387	930	1,022	-	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	4,643	6,040	
Capital		-	1,932	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,932	
Total Expenses		8,538	11,008	8,616	10,699	14,256	16,581	11,360	10,121	9,014	8,778	710	672	3,666	5,326	5,025	3,698	5,025	3,698	61,185	66,883	
Net Surplus/(Deficit) Operating Result		(530)	(7)	(341)	(1,099)	(347)	102	626	(803)	468	(820)	48	92	(119)	(116)	-	-	-	-	(195)	(2,651)	
Asset Revaluation Reserve		(180)	-	856	-	(316)	-	(986)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(626)	-	
Comprehensive Operating Result		(710)	(7)	515	(1,099)	(663)	102	(360)	(803)	468	(820)	48	92	(119)	(116)	-	-	-	-	(821)	(2,651)	

(a) Negative amounts represent reversals of doubtful debt provisions

(b) Includes DCIS and DIPL services received free of charge

This comprehensive operating statement by output is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

INCOME

Income encompasses both revenue and gains.

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

4. REVENUE

(a) Grants and subsidies revenue

	2020		2019	
	REVENUE FROM CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS	OTHER	TOTAL	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Current grants	3,974	-	3,974	3,471
Capital grants	-	-	-	-
Total grants and subsidies revenue	3,974	-	3,974	3,471

Grants revenue is recognised at fair value exclusive of the amount of GST. Until 30 June 2019, grant revenue and other non-reciprocal contributions were recognised as revenue when the agency obtains control over the asset comprising the contribution, which was normally obtained on receipt.

From 1 July 2019, where a grant agreement is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations for the agency to transfer goods or services to the grantor or a third party beneficiary, the transaction is accounted for under AASB 15. In this case, revenue is initially deferred as a contract liability when received in advance and recognised as or when the performance obligations are satisfied. The agency has adopted a low value contract threshold of \$50,000 excluding GST, and recognises revenue from contracts with a low value, upfront on receipt of income.

The Agency's contracts with customers is for the delivery of various research and monitoring programs and facilitating a fleet of highly specialized firefighting aircrafts that are readily available for use by State and Territory emergency service and land management agencies across Australia. Funding is generally received upfront for 12 months and the agency typically satisfies obligations and recognises revenue as services are being delivered as specified in the agreement.

A financing component for consideration is only recognised if it is significant to the contract and the period between the transfer of goods and services

and receipt of consideration is more than one year. For the 2019-20 reporting period, there were no adjustments for the effects of a significant financing component.

Where grant agreements do not meet criteria above, it is accounted for under AASB 1058 and income is recognised on receipt of funding except for capital grants revenue received for the purchase or construction of non-financial assets to be controlled by the agency. Capital grants with enforceable contracts and sufficiently specific obligations are recognised as an unearned revenue liability when received and subsequently recognised progressively as revenue as or when the agency satisfies its obligations under the agreement. Where a non-financial asset is purchased, revenue is recognised at the point in time the asset is acquired and control transfers to the agency.

Grant revenue, passed on from a Territory Government-controlled entity with the exception of the Central Holding Authority, is recognised upfront on receipt, irrespective of which revenue accounting standard it may fall under in accordance with the Treasurer's Direction on income.

Revenue from contracts with customers for the 2019-20 financial year have been disaggregated below into categories to enable users of these financial statements to understand the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of income and cash flows. These categories include a description of the type of product or service line, type of customer and timing of transfer of goods and services.

Grant agreements that satisfy recognition requirements under AASB 15 are disaggregated below.

	2020 \$'000
Type of good and service:	
Service delivery	2,439
Research services	1,535
Total revenue from contracts with customers by good or service	3,974
Type of customer:	
Australian Government entities	18
State and territory governments	160
Non-government entities	3,796
Total revenue from contracts with customers by type of customer	3,974
Timing of transfer of goods and services:	
Overtime	2,385
Point in time	1,589
Total revenue from contracts with customers by timing of transfer	3,974

(b) Appropriation

	2020		2019	
	REVENUE FROM CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS \$'000	OTHER \$'000	TOTAL \$'000	\$'000
Output	-	47,498	47,498	51,565
Commonwealth	200	-	200	2,498
Total appropriation	200	47,498	47,698	54,063

Output appropriation is the operating payment to each agency for the outputs they provide as specified in the *Appropriation Act 2019*. It does not include any allowance for major non-cash costs such as depreciation. The treatment of output appropriations remains the same after adopting AASB 15 and AASB 1058, because they do not have sufficiently specific performance obligations.

Commonwealth appropriation follows from the intergovernmental agreement on federal financial relations, resulting in specific purpose payments (SPPs) and national partnership (NP) payments being made by the Commonwealth Treasury to state treasuries, in a manner similar to arrangements for GST payments. These payments are received by the Department of Treasury and Finance on behalf of the Central Holding Authority and then passed on to the relevant agencies as Commonwealth appropriation. Until 30 June 2019, Commonwealth appropriation was recognised in the period when the agency gains control of the funds, which was on receipt of funding.

From 1 July 2019, where appropriation received has an enforceable contract with sufficiently specific performance obligations as defined in AASB 15, revenue is recognised as and when goods and or services are transferred to the customer or third party beneficiary. Otherwise revenue is recognised when the agency gains control of the funds.

Revenue from contracts with customers for the 2019-20 financial year have been disaggregated below into categories to enable users of these financial statements to understand the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of income and cash flows. These categories include a description of the type of product or service line, type of customer and timing of transfer of goods and services.

	2020 \$'000
Type of good and service:	
Service delivery	200
Total revenue from contracts with customers by good or service	200
Type of customer:	
Australian Government entities	200
Total revenue from contracts with customers by type of customer	200
Timing of transfer of goods and services:	
Point in time	200
Total revenue from contracts with customers by timing of transfer	200

(c) Sales of goods and services

	2020		2019	
	REVENUE FROM CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS		TOTAL	
	\$'000	OTHER \$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Sales of goods and services	1,039	1,077	2,116	2,565
Total sales of goods and services	1,039	1,077	2,116	2,565

Revenue from regulatory fees is recognised when the agency satisfies its performance obligations. These include fees for the issue of licences. The agency's sole performance obligations for the issue of a non-intellectual property licence is the issue of the licence, as such revenue is recognised upfront on issue of the licence. For intellectual property licences, revenue is recognised at a point in time or overtime as or when the performance obligation is satisfied. The agency recognises licences with a term less than 12 months or a low value of \$10,000 or less, upfront on receipt of cash.

Sale of goods

Until 30 June 2019, revenue from sales of goods is recognised as revenue when the agency transfer significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods to the buyer. From 1 July 2019, revenue from sales of goods is recognised when the agency satisfies a performance obligation by transferring the promised goods, such as crocodile tags. The agency typically satisfies its performance obligations when the tags are handed to the buyer. The payments are typically due 30 days from production of invoice.

Revenue from these sales are based on the price specified in the contract, and revenue is only recognised to the extent that it is highly probable a significant reversal will not occur. There is no element of financing present as sales are made with a short credit term.

Rendering of services

Until 30 June 2019, revenue from rendering services was recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the contract. From 1 July 2019, revenue from rendering of services is recognised when the agency satisfies the performance obligation by transferring the promised services such as hydrographic services, water licensing, and plant identification. The agency typically satisfies its performance obligations when information, or outcome, is provided to the customer.

Revenue from contracts with customers for the 2019-20 financial year have been disaggregated below into categories to enable users of these financial statements to understand the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of income and cash flows. These categories include a description of the type of product or service line, type of customer and timing of transfer of goods and services.

	2020 \$'000
Type of good and service:	
Service delivery	1,039
Total revenue from contracts with customers by good or service	1,039
Type of customer:	
Australian Government entities	297
State and territory governments	372
Non-government entities	370
Total revenue from contracts with customers by type of customer	1,039
Timing of transfer of goods and services:	
Overtime	756
Point in time	283
Total revenue from contracts with customers by timing of transfer	1,039

(d) Other income

	2020		2019	
	REVENUE FROM CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS \$'000	OTHER \$'000	TOTAL \$'000	TOTAL \$'000
Other income	-	2,147	2,147	289
Total other income	-	2,147	2,147	289

Donated assets include assets received at below fair value or for nil consideration that can be measured reliably. These are recognised as revenue at their fair value when control over the assets is obtained, normally either on receipt of the assets or on notification the assets have been secured, unless received from another government entity as a consequence of a restructuring of administrative arrangements. This treatment remains unchanged from prior years.

There is no revenue from contracts with customers for the 2019-20 financial year.



5. GOODS AND SERVICES RECEIVED FREE OF CHARGE

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Corporate and information services	4,805	3,698
Repairs and maintenance	220	-
Total Goods and Services Received Free of Charge	5,025	3,698

Resources received free of charge are recognised as revenue when, and only when, a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated. Use of those resources is recognised as an expense. Resources received free of charge are recorded as either revenue or gains depending on their nature.

From 1 July 2019, corporate services staff and functions were centralised under Department of Corporate and Information Services as part of a machinery of government change and now forms part of goods and services free of charge of the agency. There has been an increase from 2018-19 due to the centralisation of Human Resources, Information and Communications Technology and Fleet.

In addition, from 1 July 2019, repairs and maintenance expenses and associated employee costs were centralised under the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics as part of a machinery of government change and now forms part of goods and services free of charge of the agency.

The department administers the Bushfires Management Act (the Act), which clearly defines that a landowner is responsible for fire on their land. Under the Act there is capacity for the Minister to establish a Volunteer Bushfire Brigade within a Fire Protection Zone. Authorised volunteers are provided with a level of protection under the Act to undertake fire management, including undertaking planned burns to reduce the impact of wildfires, issue Permits to Burn to landowners within their region and to lead or assist other brigades or department staff in the suppression of wildfires.

6. GAIN ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Net proceeds from the disposal of non-current assets	17	145
Less: Carrying value of non-current assets disposed	-	-
Gain on the Disposal of Non-Current Assets	17	145
Proceeds from sale of minor assets	13	1
Total Gain on the Disposal of Assets	30	146

7. PURCHASES OF GOODS AND SERVICES

The net deficit has been arrived at after charging the following expenses:

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Consultants ¹	885	1,258
Advertising ²	139	222
Marketing and promotion ³	116	173
Document production	33	16
Legal expenses ⁴	239	132
Recruitment ⁵	28	91
Training and study	188	266
Official duty fares	771	800
Travelling allowance	345	551
Information technology charges and communications ⁶	2,412	2,849
Motor Vehicle expenses ⁷	2,450	2,701
Equipment hire charges ⁸	1,766	1,088
Other	4,907	5,417
Total Purchases of Goods and Services	14,279	15,564

1 Includes marketing, promotion and IT consultants.

2 Does not include recruitment advertising, or marketing and promotion advertising.

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

4 Includes legal fees, claim and settlement costs.

5 Includes recruitment-related advertising costs.

6 Excludes IT hardware/software expenses, and IT Consultants which are incorporated in the consultants' category

7 Includes lease costs to NT Fleet.

8 Primarily wildfire hire charges.

Purchases of goods and services generally represent the day-to-day running costs incurred in normal operations, including supplies and service costs recognised in the reporting period in which they are incurred.

Repairs and maintenance expense

From 1 July 2019, repairs and maintenance expenses were centralised under the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL) as part of machinery of government changes. The agency now recognises a notional repairs and maintenance expense under services received free of charge in Note 5.

8. WRITE-OFFS, POSTPONEMENTS, WAIVERS, GIFTS AND EX GRATIA PAYMENTS

	AGENCY ITEMS				TERRITORY ITEMS			
	2020 \$'000	NO. OF TRANS	2019 \$'000	NO. OF TRANS	2020 \$'000	NO. OF TRANS	2019 \$'000	NO. OF TRANS
Write-offs, Postponements and Waivers under the Financial Management Act								
Represented by:								
Amounts written off, postponed and waived by Delegates								
Irrecoverable amounts payable to the Territory or an agency written off	3	4	3	4	-	-	-	-
Public property written off	6	13	-	38	-	-	-	-
Total Written Off, Postponed and waived by Delegates	9	17	3	42	-	-	-	-
Amounts written off, postponed and Waived by the Treasurer								
Irrecoverable amounts payable to the Territory or an Agency written off	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-
Total Written Off, Postponed and Waived by Treasurer	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-
Write-offs, postponements and waivers authorised under other legislation¹	-	-	-	-	317	29	-	-

¹ Remit of pastoral lease rent under Section 58 of the Pastoral Land Act

9. CASH AND DEPOSITS

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Cash at bank	1,436	607
Total Cash and Deposits	1,436	607

For the purposes of the balance sheet and the cash flow statement, cash includes cash on hand, cash at bank and cash equivalents. Cash equivalents are highly liquid short-term investments that are readily convertible to cash, of which the agency has none. Cash on hand includes petty cash, of which the agency has none.

10. CASH FLOW RECONCILIATION

(a) Reconciliation of cash

The total of agency cash and deposits of \$1.4 million recorded in the balance sheet is consistent with that recorded as 'cash' in the cash flow statement.

Reconciliation of net deficit to net cash from operating activities

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Net Deficit	(195)	(2,651)
Non-Cash Items:		
Depreciation and amortisation	1,921	2,101
Repairs and maintenance non cash	-	14
Assets acquired at nil value	(1,780)	-
Asset write-offs/write-downs	6	-
Investing Activities:		
(Gain)/Loss on disposal of assets	(17)	(145)
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/Decrease in receivables	(186)	2
(Increase) in inventories	(8)	(2)
(Increase)/Decrease in prepayments	(59)	173
Increase/(Decrease) in payables	917	(172)
Increase/(Decrease) in employment benefits	106	(165)
Increase/(Decrease) in other provisions	68	(79)
(Decrease) in other liabilities	(144)	(428)
Net Cash Used In Operating Activities	629	(1,352)



(b) Reconciliation of liabilities arising from financing activities

2019-20	CASH FLOWS				OTHER				30-JUN \$'000
	1-JUL \$'000	CAPITAL APPROPRIATION \$'000	OTHER \$'000	TOTAL CASH FLOWS \$'000	OTHER EQUITY RELATED	OPERATING ACTIVITIES \$'000	TOTAL OTHER \$'000		
Deposits Held	464	-	-	-	-	-	-	464	
Provisions	5,150	-	-	-	-	174	174	5,324	
Equity Injections	-	987	6	993	472	-	472	1,465	
Total	5,614	987	6	993	472	174	646	7,253	

2018-19	CASH FLOWS				OTHER				30-JUN \$'000
	1-JUL \$'000	CAPITAL APPROPRIATION \$'000	OTHER \$'000	TOTAL CASH FLOWS \$'000	OTHER EQUITY RELATED	OPERATING ACTIVITIES \$'000	TOTAL OTHER \$'000		
Deposits Held	463	-	1	1	-	-	-	464	
Provisions	5,393	-	-	-	-	(243)	(243)	5,150	
Equity Injections	-	1,840	-	1,840	1,022	-	1,022	2,862	
Total	5,856	1,840	1	1,841	1,022	(243)	779	8,476	

(c) Non-cash financing and investing activities

The agency recognised \$1.78 million of assets acquired at nil value for the Volunteer Bushfire Brigade vehicles transferred to the agency as part of new Bushfires NT fleet program.

11. RECEIVABLES

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Accounts receivable	70	50
Less: Loss allowance	(5)	(6)
Contract Receivables	1,204	1,229
Less: Loss allowance	(1)	(12)
Accrued contract revenue	270	10
Less: Loss allowance	-	-
GST receivables	419	497
Other receivables	-	2
Total Receivables	1,957	1,770

Receivables are initially recognised when the agency becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument and are measured at fair value less any directly attributable transaction costs. Receivables include contract receivables, accounts receivable, accrued contract revenue and other receivables.

Receivables are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairments.

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

The loss allowance reflects lifetime expected credit losses and represents the amount of receivables the agency estimates are likely to be uncollectible and are considered doubtful.

Accrued contract revenue

Accrued contract revenue arise from contracts with customers where the agency's right to consideration in exchange for goods transferred to customers or works completed have arisen but have not been billed at the reporting date. Once the agency's rights to payment becomes unconditional, usually on issue of an invoice, accrued contract revenue balances are reclassified as contract receivables. Accrued revenue that does not arise from contracts with customers are reported as part of other receivables.

Significant changes in accrued contract revenue balances during the year was due to performance obligations having been completed for an externally funded project.

Credit risk exposure of receivables

Receivables are monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure that exposure to bad debts is not significant. The entity applies the simplified approach to measuring expected credit losses. This approach recognises a loss allowance based on lifetime expected credit losses for all accounts receivables, contracts receivables and accrued contract revenue. To measure expected credit losses, receivables have been grouped based on shared risk characteristics and days past due.

The expected loss rates are based on historical observed loss rates, adjusted to reflect current and forward-looking information.

In accordance with the provisions of the FMA, receivables are written-off when there is no reasonable expectation of recovery. Indicators that there is no reasonable expectation of recovery includes a failure to make contractual payments for a period greater than 90 days past due.

The loss allowance for receivables as at the reporting date is disclosed below.

Loss allowance for receivables

There were no internal receivables requiring adjustments for expected credit losses.

EXTERNAL RECEIVABLES ¹	2020				2019			
	GROSS RECEIVABLES \$'000	LOSS RATE ² %	EXPECTED CREDIT LOSSES \$'000	NET RECEIVABLES \$'000	GROSS RECEIVABLES \$'000	LOSS RATE %	EXPECTED CREDIT LOSSES \$'000	NET RECEIVABLES \$'000
Not overdue	1,081	0.1-1	1	1,080	894	1	9	885
Overdue for less than 30 days	401	0.1-1	-	401	332	1	3	329
Overdue for 30 to 60 days	-	0.1-5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overdue for more than 60 days	62	0.1-95	5	57	65	1-95	6	59
Total external receivables	1,544		6	1,538	1,291		18	1,273

1 Total amounts disclosed exclude statutory amounts and include contract receivables and accrued contract income

2 Loss rate adjusted in 2019-20 which resulted in high reversal of prior year doubtful debts.

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
External receivables ³		
Opening balance	18	35
Adjustment on adoption of AASB 9	-	-
Adjusted opening balance	18	35
Written off during the year	-	(1)
Recovered during the year	(15)	-
Increase / (decrease in allowance recognised in profit or loss)	3	(16)
Total external receivables	6	18

³ Reconciliation of loss allowances includes loss allowances attributed to contract receivables and accrued contract revenue.

Prepayments

Prepayments represent payments in advance of receipt of goods and services or that part of expenditure made in one accounting period covering a term extending beyond that period.

12. INVENTORIES

RECONCILIATION OF LOSS ALLOWANCE FOR RECEIVABLES	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Inventories held for distribution		
At cost	14	6
Total Inventories	14	6

Inventories include assets held for distribution at no or nominal consideration in the ordinary course of business operations.

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

The cost of inventories are assigned using a mixture of first in, first out or weighted average cost formula or using specific identification of their individual costs.

Inventory held for distribution are regularly assessed for obsolescence and loss.

13. OTHER ASSETS

(a) Agency as a lessor

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

From 1 July 2019, subleases are classified by reference to the right-of-use asset arising from the head lease, rather than by reference to the underlying asset. A sublease is an arrangement where the underlying asset is re-leased by a lessee (intermediate lessor) to another party, and the lease (head lease) between the head lessor and original lessee remains in effect.

Finance leases

The agency does not have any finance lease or sublease arrangements.

Operating leases

An operating lease is a lease other than a finance lease. Rental income arising is accounted for on a straight-line basis over the lease terms and is included in revenue in the statement of comprehensive income due to its operating nature. Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging an operating lease are added to the carrying amount of the underlying asset and recognised over the lease term on the same basis as rental income. Contingent rents are recognised as revenue in the period in which they are earned.

The agency owns a parcel of land where a portion of this is leased to a tenant under a peppercorn operating lease arrangement with a lease expiry of December 2023.

(b) Contract cost asset

Costs to obtain a contract are expensed where goods and services will be transferred within one year or less and only capitalised if deemed material. Territory Government employee costs that satisfy the criteria for recognition as a cost to fulfil a contract are not capitalised and expensed immediately. Other costs to fulfil a contract are accounted for as a contract cost asset if deemed material. For the 2019-20 reporting period, no costs were capitalised as a contract cost asset.



14. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Land		
At Fair Value	2,400	4,842
	2,400	4,842
Buildings		
At Fair Value	13,128	9,881
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(6,995)	(4,993)
	6,133	4,888
Infrastructure		
At Fair Value	3,159	3,123
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(397)	(978)
	2,762	2,145
Plant and Equipment		
At Cost	9,918	10,378
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(8,337)	(8,231)
	1,581	2,147
Transport Equipment		
At Cost	6,764	4,168
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(2,242)	(1,567)
	4,522	2,601
Computer Hardware		
At Cost	77	198
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(66)	(137)
	11	61
Construction (WIP)		
At Capitalised Cost	30	-
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	17,439	16,684

Property, plant and equipment reconciliations

From 1 July 2019, property, plant and equipment includes right-of-use assets under AASB 16 Leases, effective from that date. Further information on right-of-use assets is disclosed in Note 15.

The agency has not recognised any right of use assets.

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2019-20 and 2018-19 is set out below:

2019-20	LAND \$'000	BUILDINGS \$'000	INFRASTRUCTURE \$'000	PLANT AND EQUIPMENT \$'000	TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT \$'000	COMPUTER HARDWARE \$'000	CONSTRUCTION (WIP) \$'000	TOTAL \$'000
Carrying Amount as at 1 July 2019	4,842	4,888	2,145	2,147	2,601	61	-	16,684
Additions ¹	-	42	-	(249)	813	125	30	761
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(33)	-	-	(33)
Transfer between asset classes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	(341)	(271)	(311)	(639)	-	-	(1,562)
Additions/ (Disposals) from Asset Transfers	-	616	-	-	1,780	(175)	-	2,221
Revaluation increment/ (decrement)	(2,442)	928	888	-	-	-	-	(626)
Impairment Loss	-	-	-	(6)	-	-	-	(6)
Carrying Amount as at 30 June 2020	2,400	6,133	2,762	1,581	4,522	11	30	17,439

2018-19	LAND \$'000	BUILDINGS \$'000	INFRASTRUCTURE \$'000	PLANT AND EQUIPMENT \$'000	TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT \$'000	COMPUTER HARDWARE \$'000	CONSTRUCTION (WIP) \$'000	TOTAL \$'000
Carrying Amount as at 1 July 2018	4,842	4,145	2,806	2,106	2,010	53	5	15,967
Additions ¹	-	-	-	406	978	25	-	1,409
Transfer between asset classes	-	(76)	76	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	(268)	(821)	(359)	(281)	(17)	-	(1,746)
Additions/ (Disposals) from Asset Transfers	-	1,087	84	(6)	(106)	-	(5)	1,054
Impairment Loss	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carrying Amount as at 30 June 2019	4,842	4,888	2,145	2,147	2,601	61	-	16,684

¹ Plant and Equipment is net of Asset Clearing account

Acquisitions

Property, plant and equipment are initially recognised at cost and subsequently revalued at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Cost is the amount of cash or cash equivalents paid or the fair value of the other consideration given to acquire the asset at the time of its acquisition or construction or, where applicable, the amount attributed to that asset when initially recognised in accordance with the requirements of other accounting standards.

All items of property, plant and equipment with a cost or other value, equal to or greater than \$10,000 are recognised in the year of acquisition and depreciated as outlined below. Items of property, plant and equipment below the \$10,000 threshold are expensed in the year of acquisition.

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

Complex assets

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

Subsequent additional costs

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

Construction (work in progress)

As part of the financial management framework, the Department of Infrastructure Planning and Logistics is responsible for managing general government capital works projects on a whole of government basis. Therefore, appropriation for the agency's capital works is provided directly to the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics and the cost of construction work in progress is recognised as an asset of that department. Once completed, capital works assets are then transferred to the agency.

On rare occasions amounts are transferred to agencies prior to a project being finished and will sit as works in progress within the agency ledger until completed and capitalised.

Revaluation of assets

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

- land
- buildings
- infrastructure assets

Plant and equipment asset classes are stated at historical cost less depreciation, which is deemed to equate to fair value.

The agencies land, buildings and infrastructure assets are revalued at least once every five years. The latest revaluations as at 30 June 2020 were independently conducted by the valuer Territory Property Consultants Pty Ltd. Refer to Note 24 – Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets for additional disclosures.

Impairment of assets

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

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

Impairment losses are recognised in the comprehensive operating statement. They are disclosed as an expense unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount. Where the asset is measured at a revalued amount, the impairment loss is offset against the asset revaluation surplus for that class of asset to the extent that an available balance exists in the asset revaluation surplus.

In certain situations, an impairment loss may

subsequently be reversed. Where an impairment loss is subsequently reversed, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised in the comprehensive operating statement as income, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment reversal results in an increase in the asset revaluation

surplus. Note 23 provides additional information in relation to the asset revaluation surplus.

Agency property, plant and equipment assets were assessed for impairment as at 30 June 2020. No impairment adjustments were required as a result of this review.

Depreciation and amortisation expense

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

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

The estimated useful lives for each class of asset are in accordance with the Treasurer's Directions as well as an approved variation for specific vehicles, and are determined as follows:

	2020 YEARS	2019 YEARS
Buildings	10 - 50	10 - 50
Infrastructure	8 - Infinite	8 - Infinite
Plant and Equipment	1 - 20	1 - 20
Transport Equipment	10 - 20	10 - 20
Computer Hardware	3 - 6	3 - 6
Intangibles	2 - 10	2 - 10

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

15. AGENCY AS A LESSEE

The agency leases transport equipment and motor vehicles through an interagency arrangement with Department of Corporate and Information Services.

The following amounts were recognised in the statement of comprehensive income for the year ending 30 June 2020 in respect of leases where the agency is the lessee:

	2020 YEARS
Intergovernmental leases	1,443
Total amount recognised in the comprehensive operating statement	1,443

Recognition and measurement (under AASB 16 from 1 July 2019)

The agency assesses at contract inception whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. That is, if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

The agency recognises lease liabilities to make lease payments and right-of-use assets representing the right to use the underlying assets, except for short-term leases and leases of low-value assets.

Inter-governmental leases

The agency applies the inter-governmental leases recognition exemption as per the Treasurer's Direction – Leases and recognise these as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term. These largely relate to the lease of motor vehicles from NT Fleet. Leases of commercial properties for office accommodation are centralised with the Department of Corporate and Information Services (DCIS). Consequently all lease liabilities and right-of-use assets relating to these arrangements are recognised by DCIS and not disclosed within these financial statements.

Recognition and measurement (under AASB 117 until 30 June 2019)

Leases under which the agency assumes substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset are classified as finance leases. Other leases are classified as operating leases. Repayments of principal reduce lease liabilities. The interest components of the lease payments are expensed.

Finance leases are capitalised and recorded under property, plant and equipment. A lease asset and a lease liability equal to the lower of the fair value of the leased property and present value of the minimum lease payments, each determined at the inception of the lease, are recognised.

Operating lease payments are recognised as an operating expense in the comprehensive operating statement on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

16. INTANGIBLES

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Carrying Amounts		
Intangibles with a Finite Useful Life		
Other Intangibles		
At Cost	2,128	2,180
Less: Accumulated Amortisation	(1,537)	(1,341)
Total Intangibles	591	839

Impairment of intangibles

Agency intangible assets were assessed for impairment as at 30 June 2020. No impairment adjustments were required as a result of this review.

Reconciliation of movements

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Intangibles with a Finite Useful Life		
Other Intangibles		
Carrying Amount at 1 July	839	800
Additions	111	-
Additions from Asset Transfers	-	394
Less Accumulated Amortisation	(359)	(355)
Carrying Amount as at 30 June	591	839

17. DEPOSITS HELD

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Natural Heritage Trust	463	463
Lodgment Fees Held	1	1
Total Deposits Held	464	464

18. PAYABLES

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Accounts payable	270	678
Accrued expenses	1,858	534
Total Payables	2,128	1,212

Liabilities for accounts payable and other amounts payable are carried at cost, which is the fair value of the consideration to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the agency. Accounts payable are normally settled within 20 days.

19. BORROWINGS AND ADVANCES

The agency had total cash outflows for intergovernmental leases of \$1.4 million in 2019-20. Future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable leases not recorded as liability are as follows. These are primarily the lease of motor vehicles.

	2020		2019	
	INTERNAL \$'000	EXTERNAL \$'000	INTERNAL \$'000	EXTERNAL \$'000
Within one year	1,136	-	1,126	-
Later than one year and not later than five years	2,042	-	2,278	-
Later than five years	102	-	125	-
	3,280	-	3,529	-

20. PROVISIONS

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Current		
Employee Benefits		
Recreation Leave	4,137	4,042
Leave Loading	512	540
Other Employee Benefits	44	5
Other Current Provisions		
Superannuation	326	298
Payroll Tax	282	274
Other Provisions	23	(9)
Total Provisions	5,324	5,150

The agency employed 303 employees as at 30 June 2020 (332 employees as at 30 June 2019).

Employee benefits

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

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

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

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

As part of the financial management framework, the Central Holding Authority assumes the long service leave liabilities of government agencies, including the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and as such no long service leave liability is recognised in agency financial statements.

21. OTHER LIABILITIES

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Current		
Unearned contract revenue	213	357
Non-Current		
Unearned contract revenue	-	-
Total Other Liabilities	213	357

Superannuation

Employees' superannuation entitlements are provided through the:

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

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

Unearned contract revenue

Unearned contract revenue relates to consideration received in advance from customers in respect of various external funding agreements where the services are yet to be provided. Unearned contract revenue balances as at 30 June 2020 is \$0.21 million (balance at 1 July 2019 was \$0.36 million).

Of the amount included in the unearned contract revenue balance as at 1 July 2019, \$0.36 million has been recognised as revenue in 2019-20.

The agency anticipates to recognise as revenue, any liabilities for unsatisfied obligations as at the end of the reporting period in accordance with the time bands below:

	2020 \$'000
Not later than one year	213
Later than one year and not later than five years	-
Later than five years	-
Total	213

22. COMMITMENTS

Commitments are those contracted as at 30 June where the amount of the future commitment can be reliably measured. Following the adoption of AASB 16 Leases, operating lease commitments as reported in 2019, satisfying eligibility criteria, have now been recognised as a lease liability on the balance sheet and in Note 19.

Disclosures in relation to capital and other commitments are detailed below.

	2020		2019	
	INTERNAL	EXTERNAL	INTERNAL	EXTERNAL
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000

i. Capital Expenditure Commitments

Capital expenditure commitments primarily related to the construction of infrastructure assets. Capital expenditure commitments contracted for at balance date but not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows

Within one year	-	148	-	-
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	-	-	-
Later than five years	-	-	-	-
	-	148	-	-

	2020		2019	
	INTERNAL	EXTERNAL	INTERNAL	EXTERNAL
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000

ii. Other Expenditure Commitments

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

Within one year	136	4,053	-	5,578
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	3,752	-	6,857
Later than five years	-	-	-	-
	136	7,805	-	12,435

23. RESERVES

Asset revaluation surplus

i. Nature and purpose of the asset revaluation surplus

The asset revaluation surplus includes the net revaluation increments and decrements arising from the revaluation of non-current assets. Impairment adjustments may also be recognised in the asset revaluation surplus.

ii. Movements in the asset revaluation surplus

	LAND		BUILDINGS		INFRASTRUCTURE		TOTAL	
	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Balance as at 1 July	(2,822)	(2,822)	(642)	(642)	(75)	(75)	(3,539)	(3,539)
(Increment) / Decrement	2,442	-	(928)	-	(888)	-	626	-
Balance at 30 June	(380)	(2,822)	(1,570)	(642)	(963)	(75)	(2,913)	(3,539)

24. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT OF NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Fair value measurement of a non-financial asset takes into account a market participant's ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its highest and best use or by selling it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use. The highest and best use takes into account the use of the asset that is physically possible, legally permissible and financially feasible.

When measuring fair value, the valuation techniques used maximise the use of relevant observable inputs and minimise the use of unobservable inputs. Unobservable inputs are used to the extent that sufficient relevant and reliable observable inputs are not available for similar assets/liabilities.

Observable inputs are publicly available data that are relevant to the characteristics of the assets/liabilities being valued. Observable inputs used by the agency include, but are not limited to, published sales data for land and general office buildings.

Unobservable inputs are data, assumptions and judgments that are not available publicly, but are relevant to the characteristics of the assets/liabilities being valued. Such inputs include internal agency adjustments to observable data to take account of particular and potentially unique characteristics/functionality of assets/liabilities and assessments of physical condition and remaining useful life.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within the following fair value hierarchy based on the inputs used:

Level 1 – inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities

Level 2 – inputs are inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly

Level 3 – inputs are unobservable.

The fair value of financial instruments is determined on the following basis:

- the fair value of cash, deposits, advances, receivables and payables approximates their carrying amount, which is also their amortised cost
- the fair value of derivative financial instruments are derived using current market yields and exchange rates appropriate to the instrument and
- the fair value of other monetary financial assets and liabilities is based on discounting to present value the expected future cash flows by applying current market interest rates for assets and liabilities with similar risk profiles.

(a) Fair value hierarchy

The agency does not recognise any financial assets or liabilities at fair value as these are recognised at amortised cost. The carrying amounts of these financial assets and liabilities approximates their fair value.

The table below presents non-financial assets recognised at fair value in the balance sheet categorised by levels of inputs used to compute fair value.

	LEVEL 1		LEVEL 2		LEVEL 3		TOTAL FAIR VALUE	
	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Land (Note 14)	-	-	2,400	4,842	-	-	2,400	4,842
Buildings (Note 14)	-	-	-	-	6,133	4,888	6,133	4,888
Infrastructure (Note 14)	-	-	-	-	2,762	2,145	2,762	2,145
Plant and Equipment (Note 14)	-	-	-	-	1,581	2,147	1,581	2,147
Transport Equipment (Note 14)	-	-	-	-	4,522	2,601	4,522	2,601
Computer Hardware (Note 14)	-	-	-	-	11	61	11	61
Construction (WIP) (Note 14)	-	-	-	-	30	-	30	-
Intangibles (Note 16)	-	-	-	-	591	839	591	839
Total	-	-	2,400	4,842	15,630	12,681	18,030	17,523

There were no transfers between Level 1 and Levels 2 or 3 during 2019-20 or 2018-19.

(b) Valuation techniques and inputs

Valuation techniques used to measure fair value in 2019-20 are:

ASSET CLASSES	LEVEL 2 TECHNIQUE	LEVEL 3 TECHNIQUE
Land	Market	-
Buildings	-	Cost
Infrastructure	-	Cost
Plant and Equipment	-	Cost
Transport Equipment	-	Cost
Computer Hardware	-	Cost
Construction (WIP)	-	Cost
Intangibles	-	Cost

There were no changes in valuation techniques from 2018-19 to 2019-20.

The latest revaluation of land, buildings and infrastructure asset classes was performed by Territory Property Consultants Pty Ltd as at 30 June 2020.

Level 2 fair values of land were determined based on market evidence of sales price per square metre of comparable land.

Level 3 fair values of specialised buildings and infrastructure were determined by computing their current replacement costs because an active market does not exist for such facilities. The current replacement cost was based on a combination of internal records of the historical cost of the facilities, adjusted for contemporary technology and construction approaches. Significant judgement was also used in assessing the remaining service potential of the facilities, given local environmental conditions, projected usage, and records of the current condition of the facilities.

(c) Additional information for level 3 fair value measurements

i. Reconciliation of recurring Level 3 fair value measurements of non financial assets

2019-20	BUILDINGS \$'000	INFRASTRUCTURE \$'000	PLANT AND EQUIPMENT \$'000	TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT \$'000	COMPUTER HARDWARE \$'000	CONSTRUCTION (WIP) \$'000	INTANGIBLES \$'000
Fair Value as at 1 July 2019	4,888	2,145	2,147	2,601	61	-	839
Additions	42	-	(249)	813	125	30	111
Disposals	-	-	-	(33)	-	-	-
Transfer between asset class	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation and Amortisation	(341)	(271)	(311)	(639)	-	-	(359)
Additions/ (Disposals) from Asset Transfers	616	-	-	1,780	(175)	-	-
Gains/losses recognised in net surplus/deficit	-	-	(6)	-	-	-	-
Gains/losses recognised in other comprehensive income ¹	928	888	-	-	-	-	-
Fair Value as at 30 June 2020	6,133	2,762	1,581	4,522	11	30	591

¹ Includes Revaluations

2018-19	BUILDINGS \$'000	INFRASTRUCTURE \$'000	PLANT AND EQUIPMENT \$'000	TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT \$'000	COMPUTER HARDWARE \$'000	CONSTRUCTION (WIP) \$'000	INTANGIBLES \$'000
Fair Value as at 1 July 2018	4,145	2,806	2,106	2,010	53	5	800
Additions	-	-	406	978	25	-	395
Transfer between asset class	(76)	76	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation and Amortisation	(268)	(820)	(359)	(281)	(17)	-	(356)
Additions/ (Disposals) from Asset Transfers	1,087	83	(6)	(106)	-	(5)	-
Fair Value as at 30 June 2019	4,888	2,145	2,147	2,601	61	-	839

ii. Reconciliation of recurring level 3 fair value measurements of financial assets

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Balance as at 1 July	12,681	11,925
Gains/(losses) recognised in net surplus/deficit	(6)	-
Purchases	872	1,804
Disposals	(33)	-
Additions/(Disposals) from assets transfer	2,221	1,053
Depreciation & Ammortisation	(1,921)	(2,101)
Revaluation increments/(decrements)	1,816	-
Balance as at 30 June	15,630	12,681

iii. Sensitivity analysis

Unobservable inputs used in computing the fair value of buildings and infrastructure include the historical cost and the consumed economic benefit for each asset. Given the large number of assets, it is not practical to compute a relevant summary measure for the unobservable inputs. In respect of sensitivity of fair value to changes in input value, a higher historical cost results in a higher fair value and greater consumption of economic benefit lowers fair value.

25. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

A financial instrument is a contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity.

Financial assets and liabilities are recognised on the balance sheet when the agency becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. The agency's financial instruments include cash and deposits; receivables; payables and deposits held.

Due to the nature of operating activities, certain financial assets and financial liabilities arise under statutory obligations rather than a contract. Such financial assets and liabilities do not meet the definition of financial instruments as per AASB 132 Financial Instruments: Presentation. These include statutory receivables arising from taxes including GST and penalties.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has limited exposure to financial risks as discussed below.

Exposure to interest rate risk, foreign exchange risk, credit risk, price risk and liquidity risk arise in the normal course of activities. The NT Government's investments, loans and placements, and borrowings are predominantly managed through the Northern Territory Treasury Corporation (NTTC) adopting strategies to minimise the risk. Derivative financial arrangements are also utilised to manage financial risks inherent in the management of these financial instruments. These arrangements include swaps, forward interest rate agreements and other hedging instruments to manage fluctuations in interest or exchange rates.



(a) Categories of financial instruments

The carrying amounts of the agencies financial assets and liabilities by category are disclosed in the table below:

2019-20	DESIGNATED AT FAIR VALUE THROUGH PROFIT OR LOSS \$'000	AMORTISED COST \$'000	TOTAL \$'000
Cash and deposits	1,436	-	1,436
Receivables ¹	-	1,268	1,268
Total Financial Assets	1,436	1,268	2,704
Deposits held	-	464	464
Payables ¹	-	1,693	1,693
Total Financial Liabilities	-	2,157	2,157
2018-19			
Cash and deposits	607	-	607
Receivables ¹	-	1,263	1,263
Total Financial Assets	607	1,263	1,870
Deposits held	-	464	464
Payables ¹	-	980	980
Total Financial Liabilities	-	1,444	1,444

1 Total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts and accrued contract revenue

Categories of financial instruments

The agency's financial instruments are classified in accordance with AASB 9.

Financial assets are classified under the following categories:

- amortised cost
- Fair Value Other Comprehensive Income (FVOCI)
- Fair Value Through Profit and Loss (FVTPL).

Financial liabilities are classified under the following categories:

- amortised cost
- Fair Value Through Profit and Loss (FVTPL).

These classification are based on the agency's business model for managing the financial assets and the contractual terms of the cash flows. Where assets are measured at fair value, gains and losses will either be recorded in profit or loss, or other comprehensive income.

Financial instruments are reclassified when and only when the agency's business model for managing those assets changes.

Financial assets with embedded derivatives are considered in their entirety when determining whether their cash flows are solely payment of principal and interest.

Financial assets at amortised cost

Financial assets are classified at amortised cost when they are held by the agency to collect the contractual cash flows and the contractual cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest.

These assets are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less impairment. The agency's financial assets categorised at amortised cost include receivables, and advances paid.

Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income

Financial assets are classified at fair value through other comprehensive income when they are held by the agency to both collect contractual cash flows and sell the financial assets, and the contractual cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest.

These assets are initially and subsequently recognised at fair value. Changes in the fair value are recognised in other comprehensive income, except for the recognition of impairment gains or losses and interest income which are recognised in the operating result in the comprehensive operating statement. When financial assets are derecognised, the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in other comprehensive income is reclassified from equity to the comprehensive operating statement.

For equity instruments elected to be categorised at FVOCI, changes in fair value recognised in other comprehensive income are not reclassified to profit or loss on derecognition of the asset. Dividends from such instruments continue to be recognised in the comprehensive operating statement as other income when the agency's right to receive payments is established.

The agency does not have any financial assets under this category.

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

Financial assets are classified at FVTPL where they do not meet the criteria for amortised cost or FVOCI. These assets are initially and subsequently recognised at fair value with gains or losses recognised in the net result for the year.

Financial liabilities at amortised cost

Financial liabilities at amortised cost are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

The agency's financial liabilities categorised at amortised cost include all accounts payable and deposits held.

Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss

Financial liabilities are classified at FVTPL when the liabilities are either held for trading or designated as FVTPL. Financial liabilities classified at FVTPL are initially and subsequently measured at fair value with gains or losses recognised in the net result for the year.

For financial liabilities designated at FVTPL, changes in the fair value of the liability attributable to changes in the agency's credit risk are recognised in other comprehensive income, while remaining changes in the fair value are recognised in the net result.

The agency does not have any financial liabilities under this category.

Derivatives

The agency may enter into a variety of derivative financial instruments to manage its exposure to interest rate risk. The agency does not speculate on trading of derivatives.

Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value on the date a derivative contract is entered in to and are subsequently remeasured at their fair value at each reporting date. The resulting gain or loss is recognised in the comprehensive operating statement immediately unless the derivative is designated and qualifies as an effective hedging instrument, in which event, the timing of the recognition in the comprehensive operating statement depends on the nature of the hedge relationship. Application of hedge accounting will only be available where specific designation and effectiveness criteria are satisfied.

Netting of swap transactions

The agency, from time to time, may facilitate certain structured finance arrangements, where a legally recognised right to set-off financial assets and liabilities exists, and the Territory intends to settle on a net basis. Where these arrangements occur, the revenues and expenses are offset and the net amount is recognised in the comprehensive operating statement.

(b) Credit risk

The agency has limited credit risk exposure (risk of default). In respect of any dealings with organisations external to Government, the agency has adopted a policy of only dealing with credit worthy organisations and obtaining sufficient collateral or other security where appropriate, as a means of mitigating the risk of financial loss from defaults.

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

Credit risk relating to receivables is disclosed in note 11.

(c) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the agency will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The agency's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure that it will always have sufficient funds to meet its liabilities when they fall due. This is achieved by ensuring that minimum levels of cash are held in the agency bank account to meet various current employee and supplier liabilities. The agency's exposure to liquidity risk is minimal. Cash injections are available from the Central Holding Authority in the event of one-off extraordinary expenditure items arise that deplete cash to levels that compromise the agency's ability to meet its financial obligations.

The following tables detail the agency's remaining contractual maturity for its financial liabilities, calculated based on undiscounted cash flows at reporting date. The undiscounted cash flows in these tables differ from the amounts included in the balance sheet which are based on discounted cash flows.

Maturity analysis for financial liabilities

2019-20	CARRYING AMOUNT \$'000	LESS THAN A YEAR \$'000	1 TO 5 YEARS \$'000	MORE THAN 5 YEARS \$'000	TOTAL \$'000
Deposits held	464	464	-	-	464
Payables	1,693	1,693	-	-	1,693
Total Financial Liabilities	2,157	2,157	-	-	2,157

2018-19	CARRYING AMOUNT \$'000	LESS THAN A YEAR \$'000	1 TO 5 YEARS \$'000	MORE THAN 5 YEARS \$'000	TOTAL \$'000
Deposits held	464	464	-	-	464
Payables	980	980	-	-	980
Total Financial Liabilities	1,444	1,444	-	-	1,444

(d) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. It comprises interest rate risk, price risk and currency risk.

i. Interest rate risk

The department is not exposed to interest rate risk as agency financial assets and financial liabilities are non interest bearing.

ii. Price risk

The department is not exposed to price risk as the department does not hold units in unit trusts.

iii. Currency risk

The department is not exposed to currency risk as the department does not hold borrowings denominated in foreign currencies or transactional currency exposures arising from purchases in a foreign currency.

26. RELATED PARTIES

i. Related parties

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is a government administrative entity and is wholly owned and controlled by the Territory Government. Related parties of the agency include:

- the portfolio minister and key management personnel (KMP) because they have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the agency directly
- close family members of the portfolio minister or KMP including spouses, children and dependents
- all public sector entities that are controlled and consolidated into the whole of government financial statements
- any entities controlled or jointly controlled by the KMP's or the portfolio minister, or controlled or jointly controlled by their close family members.

ii. Key management personnel

Key management personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Department Environment and Natural Resources. These include the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources, the Chief Executive Officer and the 8 members of the Governance Board of the Department Environment and Natural Resources as listed in Appendix 1.

iii. Remuneration of key management personnel

The details below excludes the salaries and other benefits of the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources as the Minister's remunerations and allowances are payable by the Department of the Legislative Assembly and consequently disclosed within the Treasurer's Annual Financial Statements. The aggregate compensation of key management personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is set out below:

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Short-term Benefits	2,121	2,194
Post-employment Benefits	265	275
Total	2,386	2,469

iv. Related party transactions

Transactions with Northern Territory Government controlled entities

The department's primary ongoing source of funding is received from the Central Holding Authority in the form of output and capital appropriation and on-passed Commonwealth national partnership and specific purpose payments. The following table provides quantitative information about related party transactions entered into during the year with all other Northern Territory Government controlled entities.

	REVENUE FROM RELATED PARTIES \$'000	PAYMENTS TO RELATED PARTIES \$'000	AMOUNTS OWED BY RELATED PARTIES \$'000	AMOUNTS OWED TO RELATED PARTIES \$'000
2019-20				
2020 Related Party				
All NTG Government departments	6,621	10,344	2	-
2019 Related Party				
All NTG Government departments	4,920	11,522	-	3

The department's transactions with other government entities are not individually significant.

Other related party transactions

Given the breadth and depth of Territory Government activities, related parties will transact with the Territory public sector in a manner consistent with other members of the public including paying stamp duty and other government fees and charges and therefore these transactions have not been disclosed.

2020 TRANSACTION TYPE	TRANSACTION VALUE FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020 \$'000	NET RECEIVABLE / (PAYABLE) AS AT 30 JUNE 2020 \$'000	COMMITMENTS AS AT 30 JUNE 2020 \$'000
Staff Employment	69	-	-

The amounts outstanding are unsecured and will be settled in cash. No guarantees have been given or received. No expense has been recognised in the current year for bad or doubtful debts in respect of the amounts owed by related parties.

There were no other related party transactions in the 2018-19 financial year.

27. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

(a) Contingent liabilities

The department had no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2020 or 30 June 2019.

(b) Contingent assets

The department had no contingent assets as at 30 June 2020 or 30 June 2019.

28. EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO BALANCE SHEET DATE

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

29. SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTERED TERRITORY ITEMS

The following Territory items are managed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on behalf of the Government and are recorded in the Central Holding Authority (refer Note 2(e)).

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Territory Income and Expenses		
Income		
Fees from regulatory services	97	108
Royalties and rents	4,693	5,049
Other income	-	11
Total Income	4,790	5,168
Expenses		
Central Holding Authority income transferred	4,848	5,100
Doubtful debts	(58)	67
Bad debts	-	1
Total Expenses	4,790	5,168
Territory Income Less Expenses	-	-
Territory Assets and Liabilities		
Assets		
Royalties and rent receivable	247	56
Other receivables	15	14
Total Assets	262	70
Liabilities		
Central Holding Authority income payable	247	57
Unearned Central Holding Authority income	15	13
Total Liabilities	262	70
Net Assets	-	-



30. BUDGETARY INFORMATION

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT	2019-20 ACTUAL \$'000	2019-20 ORIGINAL BUDGET ¹ \$'000	VARIANCE \$'000	NOTE
Income				
Grants and subsidies revenue				
Current	3,974	2,876	1,098	1
Appropriation				
Output	47,498	47,042	456	
Commonwealth	200	200	-	
Sales of goods and services	2,116	952	1,164	2
Goods and services received free of charge	5,025	3,674	1,351	3
Gain on disposal of assets	30	-	30	
Other income	2,147	-	2,147	4
Total Income	60,990	54,744	6,246	
Expenses				
Employee expenses	35,319	32,306	3,013	5
Administrative expenses				
Purchase of goods and services	14,279	12,799	1,480	6
Repairs and maintenance	-	380	(380)	7
Depreciation and amortisation	1,921	1,709	212	
Other administrative expenses	5,023	3,674	1,349	3
Grants and subsidies expenses				
Current	4,643	5,591	(948)	8
Total Expenses	61,185	56,459	4,726	
Net Deficit Operating Result	(195)	(1,715)	1,520	
Other Comprehensive Income				
Changes in asset revaluation reserve	(626)	-	(626)	
Comprehensive Operating Result	(821)	(1,715)	894	

¹ Original budget amounts correspond to those disclosed in the NTG Budget 2019-20 BP3 Agency Budget Statements (May 2019), classified on a basis that is consistent with the presentation and classification adopted in these financial statements.

Notes

The following note descriptions relate to variances greater than \$0.5 million.

- Increase in current grants income is due to additional external grant program funding sourced.
- Increase for sales of goods and services is due to additional funds sourced.
- Increase in goods and services received free of charge income is a result of centralisation of Human Resources, Information and Communication Technology, Fleet, and Infrastructure to Department of Corporate and Information Services (DCIS) and Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL).
- Increase in other income is primarily the result of transferring of volunteer bushfire brigade vehicles to the NT Government at nil consideration under new Bushfires NT fleet arrangements.
- Increase in employee expenses is due to additional Territory funding and increase in externally funded project expenditure.
- Increase in purchases of goods and services is due to additional Territory funding and externally-funded projects.
- Decrease in repairs & maintenance is a result of the function being transferred to DIPL.
- Decrease in current grants and subsidies expenditure is primarily in relation to decreases as a result of Aboriginal Ranger Land Management Conservation Grants being pushed out to 2020-21 for multiyear projects.

BALANCE SHEET	2019-20 ACTUAL \$'000	2019-20 ORIGINAL BUDGET ¹ \$'000	VARIANCE \$'000	NOTE
Assets				
Current Assets				
Cash and deposits	1,436	1,832	(396)	
Receivables	1,957	1,773	184	
Inventories	14	4	10	
Prepayments	296	409	(113)	
Total Current Assets	3,703	4,018	(315)	
Non-Current Assets				
Property, plant and equipment	17,439	16,821	618	1
Intangible assets	591	839	(248)	
Total Non-Current Assets	18,030	17,660	370	
Total Assets	21,733	21,678	55	
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Deposits held	464	463	1	
Payables	2,128	1,385	743	2
Provisions	5,324	5,393	(69)	
Other liabilities	213	785	(572)	3
Total Current Liabilities	8,129	8,026	103	
Total Liabilities	8,129	8,026	103	
Net Assets	13,604	13,652	(48)	
Equity				
Capital	95,126	95,407	(281)	
Asset revaluation surplus	2,913	3,539	(626)	
Accumulated funds	(84,435)	(85,294)	859	
Total Equity	13,604	13,652	(48)	

¹ Original budget amounts correspond to those disclosed in the NTG Budget 2019-20 BP3 Agency Budget Statements (May 2019), classified on a basis that is consistent with the presentation and classification adopted in these financial statements.

Notes

The following note descriptions relate to variances greater than \$0.5 million.

1. Increase in property, plant and equipment is a result of new assets being transferred, completion of minor new works, and capital purchases.
2. Increase in payables is primarily due to the timing of accruals.
3. Decrease in other liabilities is due to timing.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT	2019-20 ACTUAL \$'000	2019-20 ORIGINAL BUDGET ¹ \$'000	VARIANCE \$'000	NOTE
Cash Flows from Operating Activities				
Operating Receipts				
Grants and subsidies received				
Current	3,974	2,876	1,098	1
Appropriation				
Output	47,498	47,042	456	
Commonwealth	200	200	-	
Receipts from sales of goods and services	3,740	952	2,788	2
Total Operating Receipts	55,412	51,070	4,342	
Operating Payments				
Payments to employees	(34,933)	(32,306)	(2,627)	3
Payments for goods and services	(15,207)	(13,179)	(2,028)	4
Grants and subsidies paid				
Current	(4,643)	(5,591)	948	5
Total Operating Payments	(54,783)	(51,076)	(3,707)	
Net Cash (Used In)/From Operating Activities	629	(6)	635	
Cash Flows from Investing Activities				
Investing Receipts				
Proceeds from asset sales	50	-	50	
Total Investing Receipts	50	-	50	
Investing Payments				
Purchases of assets	(842)	(2,135)	1,293	6
Total Investing Payments	(842)	(2,135)	1,293	
Net Cash (Used In)/From Investing Activities	(792)	(2,135)	1,343	
Cash Flows from Financing Activities				
Financing Receipts				
Equity injections				
Capital appropriations	987	2,135	(1,148)	7
Other equity injections	5	-	5	
Total Financing Receipts	992	2,135	(1,143)	
Financing Payments				
Deposits paid	-	-	-	
Total Financing Payments	-	-	-	
Net Cash From Financing Activities	992	2,135	(1,143)	
Net (decrease) in cash held	829	(6)	835	
Cash at beginning of financial year	607	1,838	(1,231)	
Cash at End of Financial Year	1,436	1,832	(396)	

1 Original budget amounts correspond to those disclosed in the NTG Budget 2019-20 BP3 Agency Budget Statements (May 2019), classified on a basis that is consistent with the presentation and classification adopted in these financial statements.

Notes

The following note descriptions relate to variances greater than \$0.5 million.

- Increase in current grants income is due to additional external grant program funding sourced.
- Increase for receipts from sales of goods and services is due to new externally-funded projects, own-source revenue and GST refunded which is not included in the budget.
- Increase in employee expenses is due to additional Territory funding and increase in externally funded project expenditure. The agency also made payments in the form of voluntary redundancies in order to assist in making future savings required.
- Increase in purchases of goods and services is primarily due to externally-funded projects.
- Decrease in current grants and subsidies expenditure is in relation to decreases as a result of; Land Management Conservation multiyear funding agreement transferred to 2019-20, Bushfires NT funding transferred from grants to Capital Appropriation for the fleet program.
- Increase in purchase of assets is in relation to transferring \$1.290m from capital appropriation to output appropriation. There was also delays due to COVID19 in relation to the grass fire unit prototype.
- Decrease in capital appropriation is primarily a result of transferring \$1.290m from capital appropriation to output appropriation.

31. BUDGETARY INFORMATION: ADMINISTERED TERRITORY ITEMS

In addition to the specific department operations which are included in the financial statements, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources administers or manages other activities and resources on behalf of the Territory such as rent and Environmental Protection Licenses. The transactions relating to these activities are reported as administered items in this note.

The department does not gain control over assets arising from these collections, consequently no income is recognised in the agency's financial statements. The transactions relating to these activities are reported as administered items in this note.

	2019-20 ACTUAL \$'000	2019-20 ORIGINAL BUDGET \$'000	VARIANCE \$'000	NOTE
Territory Income And Expenses				
Income				
Fees from regulatory services	97	25	72	
Royalties and rents	4,693	5,063	(370)	1
Total Income	4,790	5,088	(298)	
Expenses				
Central Holding Authority income transferred	4,848	5,088	(240)	1
Doubtful debts	(58)	-	(58)	2
Total Expenses	4,790	5,088	(298)	
Territory Income Less Expenses	-	-	-	
Territory Assets And Liabilities				
Assets				
Royalties and rent receivable	247	57	190	3
Other receivables	15	23	(8)	
Total Assets	262	80	182	
Liabilities				
Central Holding Authority income payable	247	68	179	3
Unearned Central Holding Authority income	15	12	3	
Total Liabilities	262	80	182	
Net Assets	-	-	-	

Notes

1. Decrease due to the remit of pastoral lease rent under section 58 of the Pastoral Land Act.
2. Increase due to increase of rent receivable.
3. Increase due to awaiting assessments of the remit process before recovery.

APPENDIX 1

Department board and committee membership

The department's governance structure is made up of a Governance Board and supporting Committees.

The board and Committees oversee the allocation of resources across the department and the development and implementation of policies, plans and procedures that provide a foundation of good governance for department activities.

As at 30 June 2020 the committees include:

Governance Board

- Chief Executive Officer (Chair)
- Executive Director, Rangelands
- Executive Director, Water Resources
- Executive Director, Flora and Fauna
- Executive Director, Bushfires NT
- Executive Director, Environment Protection
- Chief Financial Officer
- Executive Officer
- Regional Director, Southern

Audit and Risk Management Committee

Previous members of the Audit and Risk Management Committee for 2019-20:

MEMBER	POSITION
Simon Cruickshank	Director, Mapping the Future
Collene Bremner	Executive Director, Bushfires NT
Anne Walters (external)	Chief Plant Health Officer Department of Primary Industry and Resources

Current members of the Audit and Risk Management Committee as at 30 June 2020:

MEMBER	DIVISION	POSITION
Stephanie Jungfer (Chair)	Executive	Executive Officer
Kate Richardson	Bushfires NT	Capabilities Program Manager
Keith Saalfeld	Flora and Fauna	Director, Aboriginal Ranger Grants Program
Kathleen Davis	Environment	Director, Environment Policy
Geraldine Lee	Rangelands	Director, Pastoral Land Board and Administration
Tim Bond	Water Resources	Director, Water Planning and Engagement
Hannah Feneley (external)		Director Trans Civil Services Support Department of Infrastructure Planning and Logistics

Divisional work health and safety committees

Bushfires NT

- Collene Bremner (Chair)
- Sandra Paterson
- Troy Munckton
- Brittney Burton
- Nathaniel Staniford
- Lee Gleeson
- Andrew Turner
- Tina Holt
- Paul Johnston (volunteer)
- Maureen Kohlman (volunteer)

Flora and Fauna

- Glenn Edwards (Chair)
- Alaric Fisher
- Jo Pridham
- Keith Saalfeld
- Neil Smit
- Kathryn Buckley
- Sarah Hirst
- Debbie Randall
- Alistair Stewart
- Efrosini Delmardoros

Environment

- Paul Purdon (Chair)
- Jess Foden
- Kylie Fitzpatrick
- Simon Gummer
- Patricia Tonkin
- Mark Donnelly

Water Resources

- Michelle Uniacke (Chair)
- Allan Russ
- Ralf Koberstein
- Pru Ducey
- Duncan Rance
- Noel Gibbons
- Mohammed Dilshad
- Hannah Grogen
- Bridie Velik-Lord

Business Services

- Stephanie Jungfer (Chair)
- Edwin Edlund
- Remedios Marchant
- Tammy Smart
- Michael Richardson
- Jeff Watson

Rangelands

- Luis Da Rocha (Chair)
- Jason Hill
- Chris Brown
- Kara Maclean
- Michael Richardson
- Susan King
- Eloise Kippers
- John Gaynor

Emergency Management Committee

MEMBER	DIVISION	POSITION
Luis da Rocha	Rangelands	Executive Director (Chair)
Joanne Townsend	Executive	Chief Executive Officer
Edwin Edlund	Corporate Services	Director, Communications and Media

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Governance Committee

MEMBER	DIVISION	POSITION
Luis Da Rocha (Chair)	Rangelands	Executive Director
John Gaynor	Executive	Regional Director, Southern
Alaric Fisher	Flora and Fauna	Executive Director
Leonie Cooper	Environment	Director, Environmental Authorisations
Ross Ocampo	Water Resources	Director, Geospatial Services
Kathleen Richardson	Bushfires NT	Capabilities Program Manager
Jason Hill	Rangelands	Director, Land Resource Assessment Branch
Aidan Smith	Water Resources	A/Director Water Monitoring
Phillippe Monforte	Director Digital	Director Digital, Department of Corporate and Information Services

APPENDIX 2

Statutory boards and committees – membership

(as at 30 June 2020)

Water Advisory Committees

Alice Springs Water Advisory Committee

- Jimmy Cocking
- Rod Cramer
- Adam Davis
- Robyn Grey-Gardner
- Richard Hayes
- Glenn Marshall
- Eli Melky

Darwin Harbour Water Advisory Committee

- Professor Karen Gibb (Chair)
- Annie Andrews
- Nigel Browne
- David Ciaravolo
- Shenagh Gamble
- Dr Sam Buchanan
- Sue McKinnon
- Shar Molloy
- Ian Niblock
- Mark Robertson
- Alan Roe
- Jim Smith
- Dr Claire Streten
- Daniel Thompson

Howard Water Advisory Committee

- David George (Chair)

Katherine Water Advisory Committee (finalised August 2019)

- Marie Piccone (Chair)
- Neal Adamson
- Marie Allen
- Allister Andrews
- Warren de With
- Rick Fletcher
- Michael Jarram
- Dr Alison King
- Peter Marks
- Shane Papworth
- Charmaine Roth

Ooloo Water Advisory Committee (finalised November 2019)

- John Childs (Chair)
- Warren de With
- Phil Howie
- Dr Alison King
- Mona Liddy
- Robert Lindsay
- Peter Marks
- Dr Lorrae McArthur
- Sam McBean
- Kate Peake
- Richard Perry
- Simon Smith
- Eddie Webber
- Malcom Baker

Ti Tree Water Advisory Committee (finalised February 2020)

- William (Bill) Low (Chair)
- Rodney Baird
- Sarah Cook
- Adam Davis
- Robyn Grey-Gardener
- Mitch Jones
- Willie Lane
- Vincent Lange
- Dan Pepperill
- Laurie Price

Tindall-Mataranka Water Advisory Committee

- Dr Rebecca Mohr-Bell (Chair)
- David Ciaravolo
- Tracey Hayes
- Sharon Hillen
- Jocelyn James
- Sarah Kerin
- Vincent Lange
- Helena Lardy
- Clair O'Brien
- Kerry Roberts

Rapid Creek Water Advisory Committee

- Ian Lancaster (Chair)
- Neal Adamson
- Professor Karen Gibb
- Nick Fewster
- Robin Knox
- Tim Moore
- Lisa Peters
- Graeme Finch
- Julia Schult
- Dean McAdam

Drillers Qualification Advisory Committee

- Lance Martin (Chair)
- Mark Ballard
- Trevor Edwards
- David George
- Tom Harris
- Martina Matzner
- Henry Van Tilburg
- Des Yin Foo

Water Resources Review Panel

- John Childs (Chair)
- Colin Beard
- David George
- Philip Howie
- Joe Morrison
- George Roussos
- Tom Harris
- Tracy Ward
- Katherine Winchester

Bushfires Council of the Northern Territory

- Elizabeth Bird (Chair)
- Shaun Ansell
- Alice Bielby
- Paul Blore
- Matthew Braitling
- Ashley Manicaros
- Gary Cook
- Benjamin Kaethner
- Karen May
- Lena Perkins
- Dianne Tynan
- William Rioli
- Todd Smith
- Mark Spain
- Ian Stewart

Alice Springs Regional Bushfires Committee

- Benjamin Kaethner
- Kristen Hay
- Alastair Bayly
- Elizabeth Bird
- Ben Cromarty
- Donna Digby
- Edward Hayes (Chair)
- Benjamin Heaslip
- Kimberly McKay
- Ashley Severin
- Gerogina Hamlyn

Arnhem Regional Bushfires Committee

- Nigel Gellar (Chair)
- Clarry Rogers (D/Chair)
- Jessie Alderson
- Otto Bulmaniya Campion
- Anna Pickworth
- Simon Ponto
- William Rioli
- Connell Tipiloura
- Greg Wilson

Barkly Regional Bushfires Committee

- Lena Perkins (Chair)
- Kenneth Ford
- Michael Johnson
- Donald Shadforth

Savanna Regional Bushfires Committee

- Alice Beilby (Chair)
- James (Benjamin) Lewis (D/Chair)
- Jessica Beckhouse
- Campbell Elliott
- Michael Harding
- Tammy Kruckow
- Heidi Millership
- Sam Tapp
- Simon Cheers
- Tammy Kruckow
- Thomas Shepherd

Vernon/Arafura Regional Bushfires Committee

- Shaun Ansell (Chair)
- Ian Stewart (D/ Chair)
- Rodney Beament
- Colin Deveraux
- Thomas Harrower
- Susan Jones
- David McLachlan
- Andrew McTaggart
- Desmond Oakhill
- Kevin Phillips
- Daniel Thomson

Pastoral Land Board

- Julie Ross (Chair)
- Steven Craig
- Dr Leigh Hunt
- David James
- Alastair Shields
- Roy Chisholm

NT Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA)

- Dr Paul Vogel (Chair)
- Samantha Nunan
- Dr David Ritchie (ex Officio)
- Janice van Reyk
- Dr Ian Geoffrey Wallis
- Colin Joseph Woodward
- Dr Vaughn Beck
- Dr Rod Lukatelich

Lhere Mparntwe (Todd River) Working Group (finalised October 2019)

- Dr Ken Johnson (Chair)
- Alex McLean
- Chris Day
- David Letheby
- Dr Fiona Walsh
- Geoff Kenna
- Robert Campbell
- Sarah Fairhead
- John Gaynor
- Scott Allen
- Sophie Creighton
- Stephen Brooks
- Sunil Dhanji

Aboriginal Land Management Advisory Group

- Ronald (Ricky) Archer (Chair)
- Dr Alaric Fisher
- Brian Tipungwuti
- Dean Yibarbuk
- Henry Wilson
- Karen May
- Linda Ford
- Peter Donohoe
- Paul Jenkins
- Fiona Peek
- Daniel Keynes
- Cameron McDougall

Gamba Grass Weeds Advisory Committee

- Susan Casanova (Chair)
- Dr Dionne Walsh
- Dr Natalie Rossiter-Rachor
- Anthony Kerr
- David Liddle
- Louise Kean
- Sharon Jones

Lhere Mparntwe (Todd River) Strategy Implementation Advisory Group

- Alex McLean
- Chris Day
- David Letheby
- Geoff Kenna
- John Gaynor
- Ken Johnson
- Robert Campbell
- Sarah Fairhead
- Scott Allen
- Janelle White
- Sunil Dhanji
- Ian Coleman
- Mike Gillam
- John Newchurch
- Stephen Peckham

Alice Springs Town Basin Water Availability Working Group

- John Gaynor
- Adam Davis
- Chris Day
- Sarah Fairhead
- Fiona Smith
- Sabine Wedemeyer
- Steve Brouwer
- Nick Prus
- Sean Loader
- Scott Allen
- Rob Campbell

APPENDIX 3

RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	NTG OR EXTERNALLY FUNDED	2016-17 AMOUNT	2017-18 AMOUNT	2018-19 AMOUNT	2019-20 AMOUNT
8CCC Community Radio	Environment Grant for 12 Community Service Announcements focused on key waste issues for Alice Springs and the NT	NTG				7,700
Alice Springs Town Council	Environment Grant	NTG				45,000
Anula Primary School	Environment Grant to purchase bins to separate waste and collect material that can be recycled and repurposed to educate students about sustainable waste management	NTG				5,050
	Operational Grant to support the Centre	NTG	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Arid Lands Environment Centre	Environment Grant for setting up Wash Against Waste (WAW) trailer to be used at public events in and around Alice Springs. The public can use and wash utensils and plates instead of single use plastic.	NTG				19,450
	Environment Grant for running EcoScience Schools Day 2020	NTG				18,555
Arnhem Land Fire Abatement Ltd (ALFA)	West Arnhem Fire Management Agreement (WAFMA) between the Northern Territory of Australia and ALFA (NT) Limited and Darwin LNG Pty Ltd (DLNG). Funding to be used to conduct fire planning, mitigation and suppression activities on country in western Arnhem Land.	Externally Funded	936,343	1,396,615	1,343,362	1,379,784
Australian Marine Conservation Society Inc.	Operational Grant to support the Centre	NTG		30,000	30,000	30,000
	Land Management and Conservation Grant for All CLC Ranger groups - tracker training	NTG			10,000	5,000
	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Alyawarra ALT - Fire Management	NTG			31,500	13,500
Central Land Council	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Docker River & Mutitjulu Rangers - Access to Country	NTG			54,633	23,427
	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Muru-Warinyi Ankkul Rangers - Strategic Fire Management in the Tennant Creek region	NTG		52,325	46,575	16,100
	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Tennant Creek, Anmatyerr, Ntaria & Ltyentye Apurte Rangers - Healthy Country Plans	NTG			56,805	24,345
	West Arnhem greenhouse emissions monitoring and auditing program in relation to the WAFMA agreement	Externally Funded	150,000	50,000	100,000	100,000
Charles Darwin University	Environment Grant to work with Industry to build a Zero Waste demonstration building. This will demonstrate how construction can be done with as little waste as possible.	NTG				49,329
	Mapping Gamba Grass Management	NTG				100,000
DEMED Aboriginal Corporation	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Adjumarllarl Rangers - Targeted Land Management: Fresh Water Bininj Mundbalk to Saltwater Bininj Mundbalk	NTG		72,113	80,114	74,628
Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Dhimurru Rangers - IPA marine debris management	NTG			26,500	24,000
Environmental Defenders Office NT Inc.	Operational Grant to support the Centre	NTG	50,000	50,000	100,000	100,000

RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	NTG OR EXTERNALLY FUNDED	2016-17 AMOUNT	2017-18 AMOUNT	2018-19 AMOUNT	2019-20 AMOUNT
GeoScience Australia	National Water Infrastructure Development Fund for extension of the Ord irrigation Scheme Stages 1 and 2. To provide new arable farming land by constructing irrigation channels from the Ord irrigation Scheme into the Northern Territory.	Externally Funded	96,807	663,193	720,000	200,000
Indigenous Land Corporation	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Fish River Rangers - Fish River Rangers' threatened species and biodiversity monitoring program	NTG		24,500	16,200	3,800
Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation Centralised	Land Management and Conservation Grant - Strategic, Regional and sustainable Ranger led response to the threat of Gamba Grass on Jawoyn Lands	NTG		28,000	30,000	12,000
Katherine Town Council	Environment Grant for waste education camping in the Big Rivers region of the NT. Being administered by councils involved the Big Rivers Waster Working group.	NTG				45,144
Keep Australia Beautiful Council	Operational Grant to support the Centre	NTG	200,000	200,000	150,000	150,000
Larrakia National Aboriginal Corporation	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Larrakia Nation Rangers monitoring and managing traditional intertidal seafood	NTG			29,250	18,000
Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Yirralka Rangers - Laynhapuy IPA Feral Animal Control	NTG		31,625	40,660	18,071
Local Government Association of the NT	Operational Grant to support regional waste management	NTG		120,000	150,000	150,000
Millner Primary School	Environment Grant for a composting and worm farm program will be implemented to divert the schools organic waste from landfill, provide nutrients for the garden and educate the students.	NTG				2,600
Minimal Land Management Aboriginal Corporation	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Mimal Rangers - Mimal Land Management - Rangers delivering on country to manage weeds, fire, ferals and keep culture strong	NTG		80,822	94,668	90,045
Njanjma Aboriginal Corporation	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital grant for Njanjma Rangers - Toyota Landcruiser dual cab 4WD and Quik Spray unit	NTG			74,741	73,967
North Australian Indigenous Land & Sea Management Alliance	Land Management and Conservation Grant for all Northern Territory Rangers - Indigenous State of the Region Report 2018-2020	NTG		105,000	135,000	60,000
	Land Management and Conservation Grant for all NLC Ranger groups - Ranger strategic training program	NTG			91,753	24,706
	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Bulgul Rangers - Increasing Aboriginal Ranger capacity in caring for country within the Finnis-Reynolds catchment	NTG		105,356	135,295	156,349
	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Galalanga-Mindibirrina Indigenous Protected Area - Feral animal survey	NTG			57,647	158,288
Northern Land Council	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Kenbi Rangers - Cultural and natural resource management activities on Kenbi land and sea country	NTG		112,500	88,500	69,000
	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Wardaman Rangers - Land Management Projects for Improved Conservation Practices & Cultural Maintenance on the Wardaman IPA	NTG		69,776	88,512	39,072
	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Yugul Mangi and Numbulwar Numburindi ranger groups - Management of feral animals in the South East Arnhem Land Indigenous Protected Area (SEAL IPA)	NTG		39,675	107,707	52,419

RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	NTG OR EXTERNALLY FUNDED	2016-17 AMOUNT	2017-18 AMOUNT	2018-19 AMOUNT	2019-20 AMOUNT
NT Farmers Association Incorporated	Environment Grant to purchase a mobile baler to increase efficiency in the NT drumMUSTER program.	NTG				42,317
	Water Sustainability	NTG				30,000
Olive Pink Botanic Garden	Environment Grant for a multifaceted project that will set up a CDS collection point and use funds generated from this to run a waste education and weeds management program in the Alice Springs area.	NTG				50,000
Queensland Department of Agricultural & Fisheries	Contribution to the National Four Tropical Weeds Eradication Program	NTG	47,549	50,246	57,657	59,073
	Red Witchweed Program due to new detections and subsequent impact	NTG	17,301	6,555		4,843
Roper River Landcare Incorporated	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Mangarrayi Rangers - Leadership in Neem Control and Eradication in the Never-Never	NTG		21,300	25,100	10,000
Taminmin College	Environment Grant to purchase equipment to separate waste and collect material that can be recycled to educate students about sustainable waste management	NTG				5,700
Territory Natural Resource Management	Waterhole rehabilitation Finke River	NTG				30,000
Thamarrurr Development Corporation Ltd	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Thamarrurr, Asyrikarrak Kirim, Wudicupidilyerr and Malak Malak Rangers - Collaborative management of mimosa and gamba grass in the western Top End region	NTG		122,500	151,500	148,500
	Environment Grant to purchase equipment to increase efficiency at the Wadeye CDS collection depot and create a video to raise awareness of the CDS.	NTG				9,155
The Environment Centre NT Inc.	Operational Grant to support the Centre	NTG	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Tiwi Land Council	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Tiwi Rangers - Control and eradication of outlier weeds and ferals - Tiwi Islands	NTG		123,109	143,763	99,023
Various recipients for bushfire grants relating to protective clothing or equipment	Funding for personal protective clothing and equipment is provided to volunteer firefighters on completion of basic training and becoming an Authorised Bushfire Volunteer (ABV)	NTG	18,226	90,685	60,983	0
	Subsidy is provided for landholders to purchase firefighting equipment and radios, at 50 percent for equipment and 80 percent for radios, of the purchase price (exclusive of GST) with maximum value of \$1,200 per applicant.	NTG	38,365	14,099	29,790	42,032
Volunteer Bushfire Brigades	Operational grant to support 22 volunteer bushfire brigades	NTG	601,842	592,607	650,857	372,752
	Vehicle replacement program for firefighting vehicles of the volunteer bushfire brigades	NTG	579,287	329,974	202,430	0
Warddeken Land Management Limited	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Warddeken Rangers - Transforming Philanthropic Support into a sustainable funding source for Indigenous Land and Sea Management	NTG		70,000	147,273	180,000
		TOTAL	5,332,958	8,262,983	7,972,302	4,642,723

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Pollution

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Container deposit

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