

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT, THE ARTS AND SPORT

Performance Reporting



Output Group: Protected Areas and Conservation

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

Outcomes of this Output Group are protection of the natural and cultural assets in the Territory’s Parks estate. It also includes the creation of educational and recreational opportunities based on these assets, with increased community involvement in protected areas management and wildlife conservation across the Territory.

This Output Group is attributed \$51.20 million of the Department’s \$172.91 million budget.

There are three Outputs within this Output Group:

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

Output: Parks Joint Management Programs

This Output establishes an equitable joint management partnership with local Traditional Owners to manage, maintain and protect the biodiversity of a Park or Reserve.

Performance Measures: Parks Joint Management Programs

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Estimate	10–11 Actual	11–12 Budget
Operational Joint Management Plans ¹	7	7	9	8 ²	25 ³
Active joint management committees ⁴	5	8	12	10 ⁵	15

Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Joint Management Plans are statutory documents prepared under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*. They set out the directions of management and governance for the Park under joint management arrangements with Traditional Owners, ensuring the effective management of parks’ key values. There are a total of 32 jointly managed Parks, with 27 scheduled under the *Parks and Reserves (Framework for Future) Act*.
2. The Joint Management Plan for Chamber’s Pillar Historical Reserve became operational during the year. Watarrka National Park’s title transfer and passage of Joint Management Plan was anticipated to be completed in 2010–11, but was not finalised.
3. The increase in Joint Management Plans for 2011–12 reflects there are 16 plans in advanced stages of completion as at 30 June 2011, which are anticipated to be tabled in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly in 2011–12.

4. Active Joint Management Committees apply to the 27 Parks subject to the *Parks and Reserves (Framework for Future) Act*. They are established consistent with the Joint Management Plan for each Park or Reserve and include representatives from Traditional Owners and the Territory Government. Joint Management Committees direct management of Parks consistent with the Joint Management Plan. These are not statutory boards or committees.
5. There are 10 active joint management Committees covering the following 16 Parks and Reserves:
 1. Daminmin Joint Management Committee for the Adelaide River group of Parks, east of Darwin (Fogg Dam, Black Jungle/Lambells Lagoon, Harrison Dam, and Melacca Swamp Conservation Reserves);
 2. Mary River National Park, east of Darwin;
 3. Judbarra/Gregory National Park and Gregory's Tree Historical Reserve, west of Katherine;
 4. Flora River Nature Park, west of Katherine;
 5. Watarrka National Park, west of Alice Springs;
 6. Trepina Gorge Nature Park, Corroboree Rock Conservation Reserve and N'Dhala Gorge Conservation Reserve, east of Alice Springs;
 7. Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve, south of Alice Springs;
 8. Chamber's Pillar Historical Reserve, south of Alice Springs;
 9. Karlu-Karlu/Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve, south of Tennant Creek; and
 10. Iytwelepenty/Davenport Ranges National Park, south-east of Tennant Creek.

Key Achievements in 2010–11: Parks Joint Management Programs

1. Transferred the title for Finke Gorge National Park, south-west of Alice Springs, to Traditional Owners in June 2011 and executed a lease back to the Territory Government for 99 years for its use as a jointly managed park.
2. Secured new funding of \$2.1M from the Territory Government to expand the Parks and Wildlife Service's Indigenous Employment Program. Funds will be invested to improve recruitment, retention and progress of Indigenous staff and apprentices, expanding the Flexible Employment Program and contracting park management services to Indigenous ranger groups and organisations.
3. Hosted Flexible Employment Programs through partnerships with several Indigenous organisations across the Northern Territory. This program continues to deliver park management program outcomes and paid work experience for more than 80 Indigenous participants, some of whom will qualify as future Parks and Wildlife rangers. The involvement of participants contributed about seven full-time equivalent employees to park management programs.
4. Implemented the Chamber's Pillar Historical Reserve Joint Management Plan which became operational when passed through the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly in November 2010.
5. Completed community consultation on Draft Joint Management Plans for the following Parks estate:
 - Flora River Nature Park, west of Katherine;
 - Gregory's Tree Historical Reserve, west of Katherine;
 - Judbarra/Gregory National Park, west of Katherine;
 - Trepina Gorge Nature Park, east of Alice Springs;
 - Corroboree Rock Conservation Reserve, east of Alice Springs; and
 - N'Dhala Gorge Nature Park, east of Alice Springs.

6. Prepared eight draft Joint Management Plans with Joint Management Partners, ready for community consultation in 2011–12 for the following from the Parks estate:
 - Finke Gorge National Park, west of Alice Springs;
 - Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve;
 - Iytwelepenty/Davenport Range National Park, south-east of Tennant Creek;
 - Mary River National Park, east of Darwin;
 - Black Jungle/Lambells Lagoon Conservation Reserve, east of Darwin;
 - Melacca Swamp Conservation Area, east of Darwin;
 - Harrison Dam Conservation Reserve, east of Darwin; and
 - Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve, east of Darwin.

Challenges in 2010–11: Parks Joint Management Programs

1. Active Joint Management Plans have been delayed for the following Parks:
 - Watarrka National Park, west of Alice Springs; and
 - West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs.

Delays are due to complex issues relating to subleases with Telstra Corporation and other interests across multiple land parcels requiring resolution prior to transfer.
2. Delays occurred with the following Active Joint Management agreements for the following Parks:
 - Tjuwaliyn Douglas Hot Springs Nature Park, south of Darwin; and
 - Umbrawarra Gorge Nature Park, north-west of Katherine.

Negotiations are continuing with the Northern Land Council in regards to the terms of settlement for both of the above Parks. The negotiations should be completed by early 2012.
3. Completion of the Joint Management agreement for Barranyi National Park, east of Borroloola was not finalised as the process is reliant on the Australian Government scheduling the Park pursuant to the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act* before the lease can be signed. The scheduling is likely to occur in early 2012.
4. Completion of the Draft Plan of Management for Garig Gunak Barlu (Cobourg) National Park, north-east of Darwin, was not finalised due to the resurrection of the original land claim by Traditional Owners.

Future Priorities in 2011–12: Parks Joint Management Programs

1. Deliver an expanded Indigenous Employment Program through the new \$2.1M funding allocated to the Parks and Wildlife Service that will deliver:
 - Demonstrated conservation outcomes in improved fire and weed control on Parks and Reserves to improve biodiversity;
 - Increase the percentage of Indigenous staff and apprentices employed by Parks and Wildlife to 24 per cent;
 - Demonstrated improvement in retention and progression of Indigenous staff;
 - An increase in participation of Indigenous people in flexible employment programs; and
 - Substantial outcomes through fee for service contracts to Indigenous ranger groups or organisations.
2. Complete the following Parks and Reserves Joint Management Plans, made operational by passage through the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly:
 - West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs;
 - Watarrka National Park, west of Alice Springs;
 - Corroboree Rock Conservation Reserve, east of Alice Springs;
 - Trepahina Gorge Nature Park, east of Alice Springs;
 - Finke Gorge National Park, south of Alice Springs;
 - Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve;
 - Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve, east of Darwin;
 - Harrison Dam Conservation Reserve, east of Darwin;
 - Black Jungle/Lambells Lagoon, east of Darwin;
 - Melacca Swamp Conservation Reserve, east of Darwin;
- N'Dhala Gorge Nature Park, east of Darwin;
- Mary River National Park, east of Darwin.
- Gregory's Tree Historical Reserve, west of Katherine;
- Judbarra/Gregory National Park, west of Katherine;
- Flora River Nature Park, west of Katherine; and
- Iytwellepenty/Davenport Ranges National Park, south of Tennant Creek.
3. Complete Joint Management agreements consistent with agreed settlements for land claims for:
 - Tjuwaliyn Douglas Hot Springs Nature Park, south of Darwin;
 - Umbrawara Gorge Nature Park, north-west of Katherine; and
 - Barranyi National Park, east of Borroloola.

Output: Parks Visitor Management Programs

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

Performance Measures: Parks Visitor Management Programs

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Estimate	10–11 Actual	11–12 Budget
Total visits to Territory parks (million) ¹	2.6	2.9	2.8	2.8 ²	2.8
Visitor satisfaction ³	87.3%	91.6%	87%	86%	92%

Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Total visits were derived from a core group of Territory parks where annual visitations exceed 5000 per year for which data collection methods produce the most reliable data. Data collected from these core Parks capture the majority of total Park visitors.
2. The number of actual visits is consistent with the estimated number. There was a slight decrease in holiday visits to the Northern Territory from the previous year and accords with holiday visits data provided by Tourism NT.
3. Visitor satisfaction was assessed for Alice Springs Telegraph Station and Nitmiluk National Park, north of Katherine. Three surveys were undertaken at each park during low season, shoulder season and peak tourism season.

Key Achievements in 2010–11: Parks Visitor Management Programs

1. Completed the Red Centre Way West MacDonnell Discovery Centre at the Alice Springs Desert Park, which includes a digital media component. The digital components of the Discovery Centre include a West Macs website and downloadable audio and video that plays on MP3 players or smart devices.
2. Outsourced Leanyer Recreation Park to the YMCA to provide specialist management and enhanced recreation services. The decision to outsource will bring more services, enhancing the experience for locals and visitors, including the possibility of learn to swim, aqua classes, school holiday programs and a host of other activities.
3. Continued the Territory Parks Alive Program on a majority of Parks and Reserves during peak visitor seasons, providing free walks and talks by Rangers to enable greater visitor interaction and understanding of reserve values and conservation.
4. Released the Litchfield National Park Draft Plan of Management for community consultation in May 2011. The Draft Plan proposes several development changes to enhance visitor experience and promote Litchfield National Park, which includes:
 - A glass viewing platform for Tolmer Falls;
 - Two mountain bike loops; and
 - Adventure activities such as zip lining.
 The Plan is to be operational by the end of June 2012.
5. Opened two new swimming areas, including an all-year crocodile safe area, and picnic sites at the Cascades, Litchfield National Park, south of Darwin.

6. Finalised the design of shallow rock pools as part of Stage Two developments at Howard Springs Nature Park, south of Darwin. This was done through the input of the Howard Springs Advisory Committee. This and other elements of the \$1.8M Stage Two developments are expected to be completed in 2011–12.
7. Completed a Management Effectiveness Framework for creating class one to four visitor parks to set and prioritise services. The Management Effectiveness Framework is a decision-making tool used by the Agency to identify priority visitor/tourism and conservation programs within a framework of ranked and classified Parks.
8. Constructed two composting toilets worth \$121 000 at Nitmiluk National Park, along the Jatbula Trail, north of Katherine.
9. Completed the \$108 000 visitor upgrade at Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve, south of Alice Springs. This included a shade shelter, barbeques and walking tracks.
10. Completed the \$0.3M reconstruction of the deteriorating retaining wall at the lower end of the Mataranka Thermal Pool, south of Katherine. This will enable cleaning of the Thermal Pool and help prevent erosion and increase visitor amenity.
11. Commenced the \$0.3M upgrade and expansion of camping facilities at Chamber's Pillar Historical Reserve, south of Alice Springs, to be completed in August 2011.
12. Completed the \$500 000 upgrade on the car park at Berry Springs Nature Park, south of Darwin, to improve flow and visitor access.

Challenges in 2010–11: Parks Visitor Management Programs

1. Delays in re-opening Top End parks due to a record 2011 Wet season which cut roads and increased crocodile mobility resulted in many Parks being closed.

Future Priorities in 2011–12: Parks Visitor Management Programs

1. Construct a new water play area and viewing platforms at Howard Springs Nature Reserve, south of Darwin.
2. Construct a new Visitor Centre at Wangi Falls and upgrade the Tolmer Falls walking tracks in Litchfield National Park, south of Darwin.
3. Construct a playground at Casuarina Coastal Reserve, in Darwin, in conjunction with Darwin City Council.
4. Complete the \$0.6M development of the Red Centre Way West MacDonnell Discovery Centre in the Alice Springs central business district.
5. Construct tourist facilities at Munbililla (Tomato Island), east of Katherine. This will include a campground, caravan park and toilet facilities.
6. Finalise the Litchfield National Park Plan of Management.

Output: Conservation Management Programs

Protect the natural and cultural assets within the Northern Territory's parks estate and support protected area and wildlife conservation management across the Territory.

Key Deliverables Output: Conservation Management Programs

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Estimate	10–11 Actual	11–12 Budget
Hectares under conservation management ¹	13M	15.2M	15.5M	16M ²	18.2M ³
Collaborative biodiversity surveys undertaken ⁴	15	24	19	25 ⁵	17
Managed species reporting beneficial trends ⁶	7	14	32	21 ⁶	32

Explanatory Notes to the Table

- Hectares under conservation management includes all of the Parks and Reserves managed by the Territory Government and the Commonwealth Government, Indigenous Protected Areas and areas managed for conservation on private and other government lands.
- In 2010–11 there was an increase of 0.5M hectares under conservation management due to the unexpected purchase of Henbury Station by R.M. Williams Agricultural Holdings, which was not forecast in the 2011–11 estimate.
- In 2011–12 there is an expected increase due to a number of proposed conservation agreements with private landholders, which are confidential until finalised. It is expected further Indigenous Protected Areas may be declared also.
- Biodiversity surveys undertaken with other groups such as community groups, pastoral owners, Traditional Owners or Indigenous Ranger groups.

- Twenty-five collaborative biodiversity surveys were undertaken:
 - Top End waterbird colonies
 - Darwin Harbour (fish and seagrasses)
 - Cobourg Peninsula Ramsar wetlands, north-east of Darwin
 - Howard sand-plains, eastern outskirts of Darwin
 - Litchfield National Park, south of Darwin
 - Weddell (terrestrial vertebrate fauna), south of Darwin
 - Weddell (marine fauna and habitats), south of Darwin
 - Paw Paw Springs, Tipperary Station, south-west of Darwin
 - Djelk Indigenous Protected Area, near Maningrida
 - Wardekken Indigenous Protected Area, east of Oenpelli
 - Kakadu National Park (biodiversity hotspots), east of Darwin
 - Laynhapuy Indigenous Protected Area, near Nhulunbuy
 - Nitmiluk National Park, near Katherine
 - Daly region (adaptive management program), north-west of Katherine
 - Andado Station (threatened small mammals), south-east of Alice Springs
 - Gregory National Park, south-west of Katherine
 - Baraanyi National Park, east of Borroloola
 - Wakaya Desert, east of Tennant Creek
 - Harts Range (with Atitjere rangers), north-east of Alice Springs
 - Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust (with Papunya Rangers), west of Alice Springs
 - West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs
 - Ntaria Aboriginal Land Trust (with Tjuwumpa rangers), west of Alice Springs
 - Wipita Swamp (Katiti Petermann Aboriginal Land Trust), south-west of Alice Springs
 - Lake Amadeus (Katiti Petermann Aboriginal Land Trust), south-west of Alice Springs
 - Watarrka National Park, south-west of Alice Springs

6. Beneficial trends refer to an increase in abundance for threatened species or a decrease in abundance for pest species.
7. Beneficial trends were reported for 21 species or groups of species, based on monitoring programs showing increasing abundance or distribution, or a review of other data indicating an improvement in their conservation status. This was lower than the estimate for 2010–11, with the majority of species subject to formal monitoring programs showing no detectable trend.

The 21 species that displayed beneficial trends were:

1. Carpentarian antechinus
2. Plains mouse
3. Mulgara
4. Gouldian finch
5. Princess parrot
6. Australian bustard
7. Emu
8. Northern shrike-tit
9. Saltwater crocodile
10. Loggerhead turtle
11. Slater's skink
12. Prototrachia sedula (landsnail)
13. Sinumelon bednalli (landsnail)
14. Desert sand-skipper (butterfly)
15. Gove crow (butterfly)
16. Atlas moth
17. Ipomoea polpha latzii (giant sweet potato)
18. Ricinocarpos gloria-medii (glory of the centre)
19. Acacia pickardii (birds nest wattle)
20. Thryptomene hexandra (palm valley myrtle)
21. Eremophila prostrate (rainbow valley fuschia)

Key Achievements in 2010–11: Conservation Management Programs

1. Progressed the Territory Eco-link initiative that will see more than 2 000km of connected conservation corridors created to provide protection habitats for plants and animals stretching from the Top End to the Red Centre. Since 2009, almost 3 million additional hectares (over 2.2 per cent of the Territory's landmass) are now managed to protect conservation values. Achievements in 2010–11 include:
 - Establishing the first perpetual conservation covenant over pastoral land, creating the Mac and Rose Chalmers Conservation Reserve, near Alice Springs. The conservation covenant is registered on the land title as a Covenant in Gross and is binding on the current and all future owners of that land.
 - Assisting with the purchases of Fish River Station, south-west of Darwin and Henbury Station, south of Alice Springs, for conservation management.
 - Continuing to fund Land for Wildlife in Darwin and Alice Springs. There are more than 180 registered private landholder participants in Land for Wildlife contributing to the conservation of the Territory's biodiversity by assisting in linking up conservation areas and becoming strong advocates of Territory Eco-link.
 - Providing funding for Indigenous Ranger Groups at Darguragu and Papunya.
 - Undertaking desktop and on-ground assessment of the biodiversity values of properties with potential for incorporation into Territory Eco-link, including the Wakaya Desert and land between Kakadu National Park and Mary River National Park, east of Darwin.

2. Provided support to current and potential Indigenous Protected Areas by the placement of Agency Parks and Wildlife staff with the following Indigenous Ranger Groups:
 - Dhimurru at Nhulunbuy;
 - Laynhapuy at Yirrakla;
 - Djelk, near Maningrida; and
 - Wardekker, near Oenpelli.
3. Worked with eight Indigenous Ranger Groups as part of land management skill development in Indigenous Protected Areas and Land Trusts. This included training in threatened species monitoring, working collaboratively on wildlife surveys and scoping studies for re-introductions of culturally important species back onto country. These Indigenous Ranger Groups were:
 - Atitjere Rangers, Harts Range, north-east of Alice Springs;
 - Anmatyerr Rangers, Ti Tree, north of Alice Springs;
 - Papunya Rangers, Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust, west of Alice Springs;
 - Tjuwumpa Rangers, Ntaria Aboriginal Land Trust, west of Alice Springs;
 - Djelk Indigenous Protected Area, near Maningrida;
 - Laynhapuy Indigenous Protected Area, near Nhulunbuy;
 - Wardekker Indigenous Protected Area, east of Oenpelli; and
 - Gumurr Marthakal Rangers, English Company and Wessel islands, north-west of Nhulunbuy.
4. Completed the final year of a three year Living Rivers program to assess and monitor biodiversity within the Daly River. The project implemented the Daly River Management Advisory Committee's Adaptive Management program, established biodiversity monitoring sites and developed decision support tools for the assessment of land clearing impacts.
5. Worked collaboratively with community groups and private landholders to secure positive conservation outcomes, which included:
 - Monitoring the outcomes of a fencing to protect a major rainforest patch at Tipperary Station, south-west of Darwin;
 - Continuing the implementation of the Lake Woods Wetland Management Plan at Newcastle Waters Station, north of Tennant Creek; and
 - Mapping the biodiversity values of the seasonally saturated areas of the Howard Sand Plains Site of Conservation Significance to the east of Darwin with the Extractive Industry Association of the Northern Territory, Conservation Volunteers and local landholders.
6. Completed Statements of Management Intent for the 20 highest priority parks in the Northern Territory based on their visitor and conservation values, as listed below:
 1. Litchfield National Park, south of Darwin
 2. Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park, north of Katherine
 3. West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs
 4. Watarrka National Park, west of Alice Springs
 5. Casuarina Coastal Reserve, Darwin
 6. Alice Springs Telegraph Station, Alice Springs
 7. Finke Gorge National Park, west of Alice Springs
 8. Mary River National Park, east of Darwin
 9. Gregory National Park, south-west of Katherine
 10. Limmen National Park, south-east of Katherine
 11. Keep River National Park, south-west of Katherine
 12. Garig Ganuk Barlu National Park, north-east of Darwin
 13. Eusey National Park, Mataranka
 14. Trepina Gorge Nature Park, east of Alice Springs
 15. Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve, south of Alice Springs

16. Devils Marbles / Karlu Karlu Conservation Reserve, south of Tennant Creek
 17. Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve, east of Darwin
 18. Berry Springs Nature Park, south of Darwin
 19. Howard Springs Nature Park, east of Darwin
 20. Cutta Cutta Caves Nature Park, south of Katherine
7. Developed a Weed Strategy for National Parks and Reserves to ensure a strategic approach to managing statutory and other invasive weeds. This Strategy will be ready for community consultation in 2011–12.
 8. Continued to work with traditional knowledge custodians in a number of language groups in north-west Australia to document the biocultural heritage associated with plants and animals in their country, including the publication of books for the Ngarinyman, Wunambal Gaambera and Jaru languages.
 9. Developed a walking track tree planting project at Window on the Wetlands, south of Darwin, with the help of People to People Ambassador Students from America. The project will revegetate gardens at the facility and involves planting 775 trees, mulching the grounds with hay, re-aligning the track with rocks and rubbish removal.
 10. Continued work on the National Feral Camel Management Project, which seeks to reduce the density of feral camels in Central Australia, and reduce impacts on key environmental and cultural assets. Although culling was suspended for much of 2010–2011 due to the effects of unusually wet conditions in 2010, baseline monitoring activities were ongoing, which included training in wetland and vegetation monitoring for 190 Indigenous rangers in several regions.
 11. Captured more than 250 saltwater crocodiles in the Darwin Harbour Crocodile Management Zone as part of the *Be Crocwise Strategy*. The recruitment of two staff as part of the establishment of a rural Crocodile Management Team to increase the effectiveness of crocodile management in the Darwin outer rural zone was also part of the Strategy.
 12. Commenced the review of the Territory's Threatened Species list through community consultation in September 2010. A total of 621 nominations were received, proposing 75 changes to species in threatened categories and 530 changes among non-threatened categories, such as 'data deficient' or 'near threatened'. The revised list will be released for a second round of community consultation in early 2011–12 before being finalised.
 13. Undertook biodiversity survey and monitoring programs in National Parks to provide objective indicators for conservation outcomes. These activities were conducted at the following locations:
 - Garig Gunak Barlu, north-east of Darwin;
 - Litchfield National Park, south of Darwin;
 - Nitmiluk National Park, north-east of Katherine;
 - Gregory National Park, west of Katherine;
 - Barranyi (North Island) National Park, north-east of Borroloola;
 - Watarrka National Park, south-west of Alice Springs; and
 - West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs.
 14. Conducted annual population monitoring for saltwater crocodiles and magpie geese, as part of their Management Programs. The survey showed that the Territory's saltwater crocodile population is still increasing, however the rate of increase is slowing. The magpie geese survey gave estimates of 1 to 1.3 million magpie geese and up to 250 000 nests between the Adelaide River and Murganella floodplains. This indicates that the current level of hunting of this species in the Top End is clearly sustainable.
 15. Continued to monitor coastal dolphins in Darwin Harbour, Alligator Rivers region and Garig Gunak Barlu National Park, north-east of Darwin, which is the first detailed ecological study of these species in Northern Territory waters. This study is increasing the understanding of the distribution of three dolphin species, their population size, and how they use habitats including Darwin Harbour and major tidal rivers.

Challenges in 2010–11: Conservation Management Programs

1. Delays in prescribed burning efforts in preparation for the 2011 Dry season occurred due to substantial rainfall received during an extended Wet season.
2. Continuing to develop integrated biodiversity monitoring programs that provide useful and robust outputs in a cost-effective manner, and are sustainable over the long-term.

Future Priorities in 2011–12: Conservation Management Programs

1. Conduct community consultation on the draft *Northern Territory Invasive Species Strategy*.
2. Develop carbon farming prospectuses for accreditation to fund and reduce carbon emissions from wildfires on Northern Territory National Parks and Reserves.
3. Further develop systems for effective biodiversity monitoring and evaluation on National Parks, by establishing more permanent long-term monitoring sites and techniques at locations such as the West MacDonnell, Finke Gorge and Watarrka National Parks.
4. Develop an effective response to small mammal decline in northern Australia, by:
 - Increasing community awareness and involvement;
 - Implementing adaptive management programs to address key threats in strategic hotspots; and
 - Conducting further research to clarify the role of key threats such as predation by feral cats.
5. Complete a *Biodiversity Strategy* for the Northern Territory, and principles for the development of Marine Protected Areas.
6. Implement enhanced biodiversity monitoring for Darwin Harbour, which includes:
 - Monitoring of dolphin and dugong populations;
 - Comprehensive fish monitoring program;
 - New monitoring of critical habitats such as coral reefs and seagrass beds; and
 - Detailed marine habitat mapping.
7. Develop effective community programs for participating in monitoring and management of key biodiversity assets in the Northern Territory (such as Seagrass Watch and community mammal reporting).
8. Work with Traditional Owners to review the Master Plan for the Window on the Wetlands Visitor Centre facility, south of Darwin.

Output Group: Natural Resources

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

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

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

This Output Group is attributed with \$40.08 million of the Department’s \$172.91 million budget.

There are two Outputs within this Output Group:

- Land Management; and
- Water Management.

Output: Land Management

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

Performance Measures: Land Management – Bushfires

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Estimate	10–11 Actual	11–12 Budget
Fire plans developed ¹	115	110	115	115	120
Active brigade volunteers ²	433	520	515	500 ³	520
Proportion of training courses accredited to national standards ⁴	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Property plans developed prior to fire season commencement (properties greater than 8 hectares) ⁵	80%	90%	50%	50%	80%

Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Fire plans document the history of fire on a property (public land) and set out future actions to mitigate wildfire.
2. Active brigade volunteers are paid-up members of the 22 incorporated Volunteer Bushfire Brigades in the Northern Territory.
3. Numbers of volunteers have decreased in areas where fires have been rare for the past five years (such as Alice Springs).
4. While most training is accredited, some non-brigade volunteers seek national best practice instruction in safe application of fire management tailored to specific needs only.
5. Fire plans are developed in conjunction with the landholder and the Agency’s Bushfires NT with most completed before the official start of the fire season. Planning for a Central Australia fire season in 2011 identified a lack of completed plans due to an extended period without any fires.

Key Achievements in 2010–11: Land Management – Bushfires

1. Implemented new community warnings including broadcast 'Watch and Act' messages and roadside variable message boards as a recommendation from the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission Report.
2. Responded to more than 85 wildfires in the Darwin rural area with no significant injury to volunteers, staff or community.
3. Provided training to 255 people, including 137 who completed the Volunteers' Basic Fire Fighting course.
4. Assisted in the recovery efforts as a result of Tropical Cyclone Carlos, including establishing a ferry service for isolated Marrakai residents, south of Darwin.
5. Established a multi-stakeholder Working Group to plan for the predicted major fire season in Central Australian in 2011–12.
6. Scoped a new savannah burning emissions abatement project for the Daly Region. This project will build on the efforts of the successful Central Arnhem Land and Gulf of Carpentaria abatement projects.
7. Co-hosted the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council conference with the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Services. This was a meeting with 1000 delegates and a trade show of over 130 national and international exhibitors in Darwin, September 2010.

Challenges in 2010–11: Land Management – Bushfires

1. Implementing a mitigation and response plan for preparation of the first major fire season in Central Australia in a decade.
2. Managing the changing expectations of rural communities who wish to receive warning of wildfires and be supplied with a fire suppression service.
3. Managing volunteer motivation to act to save property when fire weather indicates potential safety issues.

Future Priorities in 2011–12: Land Management – Bushfires

1. Develop new community engagement approaches to increase an uptake of fire management responsibility by landholders including community events for fire planning.
2. Diversify Volunteer Brigade membership to increase resilience and succession planning by engaging with younger rural people.
3. Facilitate the expansion of professional approaches to fire management among rural and remote communities as a pre-requisite for a roll out of greenhouse gas abatement projects.
4. Expand the efforts for managing the dangerous fire risk in Central Australia over the next two to three years.

Performance Measures: Land Management – Weeds

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Estimate	10–11 Actual	11–12 Budget
Plans declared in accordance with Section 10 of the <i>Weed Management Act</i> ⁶	0	0	3	3 ⁷	3
Known land actively managing weed species ⁸	17%	17%	17%	23% ⁹	18%
Indigenous Ranger groups participating in weed management programs	24	28	18	25 ¹⁰	19
Regional, catchment or subcatchment weed strategies/plans developed	0	0	2	2 ¹¹	0

Explanatory Notes to the Table

6. Refers to the number of Weed Management Plans declared in accordance with Section 10 of the *Weeds Management Act 2001*.
7. Weed management plans declared in 2010–11 were:
 - *Andropogon gayanus* (gamba grass) in July 2010;
 - *Jatropha gossypifolia* (bellyache bush) in September 2010; and
 - *Mimosa pigra* (Mimosa) in October 2010.
8. Refers to the portion of the Northern Territory with known weed management activity as identified through the Agency's involvement in weed management planning.
9. Completion and implementation of the *Crown Managed Land Weed Management Strategy* and the Crown Managed Land Weed Management Plans for the Darwin, Barkly and Alice Springs regions has resulted in the increase on the estimated figure.
10. Increased Indigenous Ranger group involvement in the biological control program with the three groups, Wagiman, Thamarrurr (Port Keats) and Asyrikarrak Kirim Rangers (Peppimenarti), participating in biological control rearing, release and monitoring activities over the year.

Darwin Region:

1. Thamarrurr Rangers (Port Keats)
2. Asyrikarrak Kirim Rangers (Peppimenarti)
3. Yantjarrwu Rangers, now known as Wudikupildyerr Land Management (Wudikupildyerr)
4. Malak Malak Rangers (Daly River)
5. Ngatpuk Rangers (Bulgul)
6. Acacia Larrakia Rangers (Acacia)
7. Larrakia Rangers (Darwin)
8. Amangal Rangers (Adelaide River)
9. Tiwi Rangers (Pirlangimpi)
10. Adjumarllarl Rangers (Oenpelli)
11. Warramunburr Rangers (Cobourg Peninsula)
12. Djelk Rangers (Maningrida)
13. Warddeneken Land Management
14. Gurruwiling Rangers (Ramingining)
15. Murwangi Rangers New (Arafura Swamp, southern end)
16. Gumurr Marthakal Rangers (Elcho Island)
17. Crocodile Island Rangers (Milingimbi)

Katherine Region:

18. Wagiman Rangers
19. Timber Creek Rangers
20. Mangarrayi Rangers
21. Robinson River Rangers (Garawa)
22. Mabunji Rangers

Tennant Creek Region:

23. Tennant Creek Central Land Council Rangers
24. Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation

Alice Springs Region:

25. Tjuwampa Rangers

11. Two strategies were developed:

- *Crown Managed Land Weed Management Strategy*; and
- *Guidelines* for coordinating a response to on-ground management of Mimosa in the Daly and Moyle catchments.

Key Achievements in 2010–11: Land Management – Weeds

1. Declared three Weed Management Plans which include *Andropogon gayanus* (gamba grass), *Jatropha gossypifolia* (bellyache bush) and *Mimosa pigra* (Mimosa) under section 10 of the *Weeds Management Act 2001*.
2. Increased Indigenous Ranger involvement in biological control activities with three additional groups undertaking rearing, release and monitoring activities in the Daly River region (Thamarrur, Asyrikarrak Kirim and Wagiman rangers). This sees 25 Indigenous Ranger Groups partaking in weed management programs.
3. Implemented an inspection and compliance program for bellyache bush and other priority weeds in the Upper Roper catchment.
4. Implemented a successful control campaign for a new parthenium weed outbreak in Tennant Creek in July 2010. No new plants have since been detected at the site.
5. Implemented surveillance and management programs for new incursions of the high risk weeds to the Northern Territory for Pond Apple and Water Hyacinth, in the Darwin rural region.
6. Continued implementation of a strategic program to manage priority weed species bellyache bush and gamba grass, in the Darwin and Katherine regions.
7. Continued to contain an infestation of cabomba and prevent it from spreading outside the Darwin River catchment or entering the Darwin River Dam.

Challenges in 2010–11: Land Management – Weeds

1. Effectiveness of weed management activities has been impacted by rainfall over an extended period, resulting in multiple flowering and seeding events for weed species, particularly bellyache bush and gamba grass.

Future Priorities in 2011–12: Land Management – Weeds

1. Develop regional weed management strategies for the Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs regions identifying priority species and actions for each region.
2. Review the *Weeds Management Act* to ensure that it continues to provide an appropriate regulatory environment to support strategic weed management outcomes for the Northern Territory.

Performance Measures: Land Management – Native Vegetation

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

Explanatory Notes to the Table

12. Seven applications were received by the Agency for processing (seven on unzoned freehold land and none on pastoral lease), and six applications to clear on zoned land were received for comment. Impacts of current economic conditions and trade arrangements in the agricultural industry have resulted in a reduction in applications to clear native vegetation compared to estimates. Applications received and processed are as follows:

Pastoral

Nil

Zoned

1. Katie McDowall;
2. June D’Rozario;
3. Inpex Browse Ltd;
4. Ecoz Environmental Service;
5. Van Be Nguyen; and
6. Ashley Goldup.

Unzoned

7. Vinh Cong Nguyen;
 8. Ecoz Environmental Service;
 9. Sam McBean;
 10. Brooke Rankmore;
 11. Brendan Johnson;
 12. MasterPlan; and
 13. Northern Territory Government’s Department of Construction and Infrastructure.
13. No appeals of determinations were lodged in 2010–11.
14. Supplementary information refers to when additional information is officially requested under the *Planning Act* by the Agency as the application fails to comply with section 46(3) of the *Act*.
15. Actual requests for supplementary information is lower than estimated as most applications have complied with section 46(3) of the *Planning Act*. This may be due to the development of a new Property Development Plan pro-forma by the Agency.
16. Number of applications that are determined within the statutory 12 week period, under the *Planning Act*.
17. Applications in the financial year included applications from within the Daly moratorium area Interim Development Control Order number 17 (IDCO No 17) which required additional matters to be addressed and a tighter application and assessment process. The IDCO has since expired and similar delays are not anticipated in the future.
18. Timeframes are not always met due to inconsistencies regularly being identified between applications and on-site conditions and/or risks involved in developing a site. This requires investigation to clarify risks and applicants to develop mitigation strategies.

Key Achievements in 2010–11: Land Management – Native Vegetation

1. Released exposure drafts of the *Pastoral Land Act* Amendment Bill and Native Vegetation Management Bill for public comment. Extensive community consultation was conducted including five public forums and 32 stakeholder consultations across the Territory.
2. Developed new public education materials including technical notes and fact sheets on broad-acre soil conservation to provide guidance for landholders.
3. Completed a review of procedures to standardise the assessment of land clearing applications and internal decision making process. The procedures provide guidance to staff when making recommendations to the Development Consent Authority, and when requesting additional information from applicants.

Challenges in 2010–11: Land Management – Native Vegetation

1. Develop new guidelines and clearing application forms in consultation with industry and key stakeholders, in order to meet the identified requirements of stakeholders, and incorporate them into guidelines within the legislative framework.

Future Priorities in 2011–12: Land Management – Native Vegetation

1. Finalise community comment and stakeholder feedback on the *Pastoral Land Act* Amendment Bill and the Native Vegetation Management Bill for passage through Northern Territory Legislative Assembly.
2. Develop Regulations for the *Native Vegetation Management Act* to provide direction on key matters needed to implement the Act, including codes for protecting rivers, criteria for membership of Committees and making of regional plans.
3. Develop a database of all land cleared prior to the legislative requirements for consent to clear (*Pastoral Land Act 1992/Other Tenure 2002*).

Performance Measures: Land Management – Land Capability

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Estimate	10–11 Actual	11–12 Budget
Land development proposals assessed	224	280	270	174 ¹⁸	270
New soil and land related information captured in corporate database ¹⁹	10 000	5 000	5 000	3 000 ²⁰	5 000
Monitoring sites assessed within timeframe	65%	57%	30%	48% ²¹	40%

Explanatory Notes to the Table

18. Land development proposals assessed is determined by the number of applications received per year from the public. While the figure is lower than estimated it contains several large subdivisions, each covering considerable area with many hundreds of lots. i.e. Darwin Business Park North and South (East Arm), Bellamack, Johnston 1A, 1B and Stage 2, Zuccoli, Mitchell, Muirhead, Coolalinga and the Charles Darwin University Palmerston development.
19. Refers to soil information captured prior to the existence of databases. It is still a priority to capture both new information as well as the securing of non-electronic information. This electronic data is essential for assessing the possible effects of climate change and sustainable land use planning.
20. Less sites were captured in 2010–11 as the number of sites which data is captured on will be progressively reduced in the future, as it is processed to into a digital format. Additionally, the provision of comprehensive land and vegetation data to underpin the development of the city of Weddell was a significant task and dominated the work program in 2010–11.

21. The number of site assessments completed within timeframes exceeded the estimate due to revised area of field operations, resulting in more sites being covered due to less travelling required, and a temporary reprioritisation of resources to enable implementation of new natural resource legislation.

Key Achievements in 2010–11: Land Management – Land Capability

1. Finalised vegetation mapping in the Daly River Catchment, providing the basis for sustainable land use planning and to assist the development of the draft Native Vegetation Management Bill.
2. Conducted a landscape survey for the city of Weddell, south of Darwin, and published a interim draft report on land capability, vegetation and flora. The draft report was prepared to provide landscape data to inform the Weddell Planning Group and facilitate the planning of Weddell.
3. Established a process for the incorporation of erosion and sediment control plans in major Northern Territory developments.

Challenges in 2010–11: Land Management – Land Capability

1. Upgrading information to digital format and delivering this information to the public in an accessible and user friendly manner.

Future Priorities in 2011–12: Land Management – Land Capability

1. Development of codes, guidelines and regulations required for the implementation of the amendments to the *Pastoral Land Act* and the draft Native Vegetation Management Bill.
2. Consolidation of extensive information and data into corporate databases and delivery of information in a format to support the implementation of the new legislation.

Output: Water Management

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

Performance Measures: Water Management – Flood Forecasting

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Estimate	10–11 Actual	11–12 Budget
New gauging station installations (river height and rainfall)	1	2	0	0 ¹	1 ²
Gauging station upgrades to existing sites	2	8	9	6 ³	3
Proportion of days where data is available	95%	96%	85%	87% ⁴	85%
Percentage of new gauging station installations in priority areas	17%	20%	5%	0 ⁵	5%
Services delivered within agreed timeframes	96%	97%	85%	87% ⁶	85%

Explanatory Notes to the Table

- No new gauging stations were constructed due to an extreme Wet season starting early with large flood events.
- It is expected that one new site will be developed on the Daly River at Gourley, west of Katherine, to provide better flood warnings to the Nauiyu community.
- The upgrade of high and medium priority sites has been completed. A number of sites that were due for upgrading have had their usefulness assessed as part of a monitoring network review and are now unlikely to remain part of the monitoring network. This reduced the estimated number of upgrades undertaken. Upgrades were carried out at:
 - Adelaide River East;
 - West Branch, south of Adelaide River town;

- Dry River at Manbullo, south of Katherine;
 - Coomalie Creek, east of Batchelor;
 - Adelaide River, upstream of Marrakai Crossing, and Tortilla Flats, north of Adelaide River township; and
 - McArthur River, Borroloola.
- Data systems performed slightly better than expected as a result of improved and new infrastructure.
 - No new gauging stations installed. Please refer to Explanatory Note 1.
 - Real time data for flood forecasting operations was delivered in estimated time frames.

Key Achievements in 2010–11: Water Management – Flood Forecasting

- Issued a total of 213 flood forecast advices to Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services with moderate to high reliability in river height prediction. These advices were issued to provide timely warning to communities including Nauiyu, Adelaide River township, Beswick, and Alice Springs. Specific catchment advice is:
 - Daly River catchment 106
 - Upper Adelaide River catchment 14
 - Upper Roper River catchment 32
 - Upper Todd River catchment 49
 - Victoria River catchment 12
- Completed the upgrade of the site in the McArthur River flood monitoring system to enhance the reliability of prediction of floods in Borroloola.
- Completed instrument and telemetry upgrades to the remaining flood monitoring stations in the Adelaide and Daly River catchments.

4. Delivered a high performance flood forecasting network, with significant improvements in the areas of field site and data management systems. Upgrades to gauging stations over the last four years have proven to be very effective and has enhanced the reliability of flood forecasts.
5. Completed systems for the ongoing provision of flood alerts to the Northern Territory Government's Department of Construction and Infrastructure at nominated sites where road and bridge infrastructure are at risk of flooding.
6. Configured systems for increased public access to Territory river data through the Agency's website to include near real-time information from all upgraded monitoring sites.
7. Captured an increased amount of significant data in a record Wet season throughout the Northern Territory. Data was used in the development of flood mitigation plans and flood forecast modelling to minimise the impact of future flooding in specific locations.

Challenges in 2010–11: Water Management – Flood Forecasting

1. Site accessibility problems due to extensive Wet seasons in 2009–10 and 2010–11 severely restricted the ability to build flood forecasting gauge stations and maintain the existing network. Installation of two new gauging stations at the Lower Daly and Wickham Rivers for the collection of vital data, and to improve the accuracy of flood predictions that was due for completion in 2009–10, will be completed in 2011–12.
2. Response to some site outages was longer than usually expected due to the prolonged periods of rainfall resulting in restriction of access to sites.

Future Priorities in 2011–12: Water Management – Flood Forecasting

1. Collect intelligence data to include flood heights, extents and timing of flood events in order to produce effective flood risk analyses.
2. Investigate the impact of coastal inundation due to storm surge on flood forecasting.
3. Undertake floodplain modelling for Blackmore and Elizabeth Rivers in Litchfield Shire, Todd River in Alice Springs and McArthur River in Borroloola.
4. Use floodplain modelling data to establish the flood risk to the cities of Weddell, Alice Springs and Borroloola.

Performance Measures: Water Management – Surface and Groundwater

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Estimate	10–11 Actual	11–12 Budget
Operational rig days in the field ⁷	210	200	180	151 ⁸	200
New water allocation plans declared	0	1	2	0 ⁹	2 ¹⁰
Licences and permits issued	341	487	200	250 ¹¹	200
Time series data collected at agreed standards ¹²	85%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Proportion of unscheduled maintenance of drilling rigs	4%	5%	10%	3% ¹³	5%
Level of compliance to water allocation plans	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%
Services delivered within agreed timeframes	85%	85%	85%	80% ¹⁴	85%
Groundwater system investigations completed	1	1	0	0	4 ¹⁵

Explanatory Notes to the Table

7. Days of on-site drilling by the Agency’s two drilling rigs, out of a possible 260 days, based on a five day working week.
8. The number of operational rig days in the field was reduced due to the extended Wet season in the Top End and Central Australia, which affected operational capacity. In 2010 all operations were ceased in mid October due to heavy rains extending down to Tennant Creek, making accessibility to drilling sites almost impossible, until May 2011. Likewise, rainfall in Central Australia prevented transferring Darwin rigs to Alice Springs to undertake work.
9. The Western Davenport and Mataranka Water Allocation Plans were expected to be declared during this period, however they have been delayed due to extended internal checks and are expected to be declared during 2011–12.

10. The following Water Allocation Plans and strategies are expected to be declared and released:

1. Western Davenport; and
2. Mataranka/Tindall;

It is also expected that the following will be finalised in 2011–12

1. Great Artesian Basin;
2. Oolloo; and
3. *Tiwi Islands Water Resource Strategy*.

11. The number of licences and permits issued is difficult to estimate. 50 extra permits and licences were issued due to increased water bore drilling activity.
12. Agreed standards exist for the collection of time series data measuring river level and flow, as well as groundwater level data.
13. The proportion of unscheduled maintenance was lower than estimated due to the number of operational rig days in the field being reduced and extra maintenance being able to be conducted in wet periods.
14. Services delivered under the *Water Act*, such as the issue of permits and licenses, continue to be developed and improved and require significant legal advice which has slightly delayed delivery timeframes.
15. In 2011–12 it is anticipated that the following groundwater system investigations will be completed:
 - Koolpinyah Dolomite Aquifer Characteristics (Darwin Rural area);
 - Major Spring Systems of the Oolloo Dolostone (Daly region);
 - Great Artesian Basin Mound Springs (south of Alice Springs); and
 - Palaeovalley Groundwater Systems of Central Australia.

Key Achievements in 2010–11: Water Management – Surface and Groundwater

1. Commenced a Commonwealth Government funded project to meet requirements of a new National Framework in Water Management to improve compliance and enforcement in the Territory. This is a five-year project which will deliver an updated compliance and enforcement system for managing water resources in the Territory.
2. Prepared drafting instructions for a Bill to amend the *Water Act*. This will ensure that all groundwater and surface water planning is consistent with the provisions of the National Water Initiative and transparency in all aspects of water allocation planning including trading in water access entitlements and water allocations.
3. Significantly improved groundwater assessment knowledge and understanding of aquifer systems through commencement of four Commonwealth Government/Agency co-funded projects. The projects include:
 - Koolpinyah Dolomite Aquifer Characteristics (Darwin Rural area);
 - Major Spring Systems of the Ooloo Dolostone (Daly region);
 - Great Artesian Basin Mound Springs; and
 - Palaeovalley Groundwater Systems of Central Australia.

All of these projects have succeeded in identifying new water resources or have resulted in significantly new understanding of the systems, including the identification of a previously unmapped aquifer in the Daly Basin. These assessments will be completed in 2011–12.
4. Finalised a review of the Agency's drilling and bore test operations in consultation with external consultants and developed responses to recommendations for consideration by the Agency's Senior Management.
5. Declared the Water Control District over the Northern Territory portion of the Great Artesian Basin (GAB) in January 2010. Funding has been received from the National Water Commission to produce a Water Allocation Plan for the Territory portion of the GAB, with a draft Plan to be available for public comment in 2011–12.

Challenges in 2010–11: Water Management – Surface and Groundwater

1. Engaging Indigenous groups in the water planning process to align with Indigenous natural resource management practices.
2. Producing high-quality water allocation plans in a challenging environment of minimal detailed information and knowledge of a large number of the water resources in the Northern Territory.

Future Priorities in 2011–12: Water Management – Surface and Groundwater

1. Apply the groundwater assessment knowledge in the development of Water Allocation Plans for the Ooloo, Koolpinyah Dolomite and Great Artesian Basin aquifers.
2. Declare four new Water Allocation Plans:
 1. Western Davenport;
 2. Great Artesian Basin;
 3. Ooloo;
 4. Mataranka/Tindall.
3. Release the *Tiwi Islands Resource Strategy*.
4. Develop and implement strategic plans for the Agency's water monitoring and assessment systems
5. Investigate management options for the presence of heavy metals in groundwater across the Northern Territory.
6. Release a draft *Water Act Amendment Bill* to ensure that all groundwater and surface water planning is consistent with the provisions of the National Water Initiative and transparency in all aspects of water allocation.

Performance Measures: Water Management – Water Quality

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Estimate	10–11 Actual	11–12 Budget
Sites monitored in the Darwin Harbour catchment	28 ¹⁶	45	59	60	59
New sites monitored	0	17 ¹⁷	15	16 ¹⁸	15
Report cards developed on time	N/A ¹⁹	100%	100%	100% ²⁰	100%

Explanatory Notes to the Table

16. Sites monitored in 2008–09 included:

- Four sites in central Darwin Harbour and Woods Inlet;
- Six sites near East Arm, in the more developed, eastern side of the Harbour;
- Three sites near West Arm, in the less developed western side of the Harbour;
- One site in the Elizabeth River estuary, downstream of the city of Weddell;
- Six sites in the Blackmore River, estuary and three sites at Haycocks Reach, downstream of Berry Springs and Darwin River Dam and south of Middle Arm; and
- Five sites in Shoal Bay, the major bay in the north east of Darwin Harbour.

17. In response to increasing community concern about the impacts of development on Darwin Harbour, 17 additional sites were monitored in 2009–10. These sites included:

- Four additional sites in Darwin Harbour and estuaries including Rapid Creek;
- One additional site near East Arm;

- Five additional sites in the Elizabeth River Estuary;
- Four additional sites in the Blackmore River; and
- Three additional sites at Myrmidon Creek.

18. In 2010–11, 16 additional sites were monitored including:

- Eleven beach monitoring sites at Vestseys Beach, Nightcliff Beach, Rapid Creek Beach, Little Mindil Beach, Mindil Beach, East Point Reserve, Casuarina Beach, Cullen Bay Beach, Lee Point Beach, Mandorah Beach and Wagait Beach.
- Four tidal creek sites at Vestseys Creek, Rapid Creek, Mindil Creek, and Little Mindil Creek.
- The estimated number of monitoring sites for 2010–11 was increased by one to include Lameroo Beach, below the Esplanade in Darwin city. This site complements other new beach monitoring sites and is near the Larrakeyah sewage treatment plant outfall.

19. N/A Report Cards were not produced in 2008. The inaugural Report Cards were in 2009–10.

20. The 2010 Darwin Harbour Region Report Cards were released in December 2010 and included monitoring information:

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

Key Achievements in 2010–11: Water Management – Water Quality

1. Produced a suite of Darwin Harbour Region Report Cards, to provide snapshots of the health of aquatic ecosystems across the Harbour and its catchment. The 2010 Report Cards showed that Darwin Harbour is predominantly in excellent condition.
2. Commenced additional high priority monitoring and research projects in Darwin Harbour. This included monitoring additional sites and parameters across the Harbour and catchment.
3. Monitored additional sites at beaches and in tidal creeks across Darwin Harbour to assist the Northern Territory Government's Department of Health with understanding the sources of high levels of bacteria at Darwin beaches.
4. Commenced development of a Water Quality Protection Plan for Darwin Harbour, to ensure that water quality objectives are maintained and that community's values for the Harbour are protected.

Challenges in 2010–11: Water Management – Water Quality

1. Providing water sample data back to the Northern Territory Government's Department of Health for use in determining beach closures is delayed by long timeframes associated with using interstate laboratories (7–14 days).

Future Priorities in 2011–12: Water Management – Water Quality

1. Implement high priority monitoring and research programs in Darwin Harbour and facilitate the development of the Darwin Harbour Integrated Monitoring and Research Program, to improve understanding of the health of Darwin Harbour and support sound environmental planning and decision making.
2. Finalise an assessment of the health of rivers and streams in the Daly River catchment and progress the development of a river health monitoring plan. The Agency has committed to providing this information to assist the work of the Daly River Management Advisory Committee in supporting the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources within the Daly River region.

Output Group: Environment and Heritage

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

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

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

This Output Group is attributed with \$8.79 million of the Department's \$172.91 million budget.

There are two Outputs within this Output Group:

- Environment and Sustainability; and
- Heritage Conservation.

Output: Environment and Sustainability

This output promotes sustainable practices and assesses and regulates environmental impacts associated with development.

Performance Measures: Environment and Sustainability

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Estimate	10–11 Actual	11–12 Budget
Notices of Intent assessed ¹	104	47	50	44 ²	65 ³
Assessment guidelines issued for development proposals ⁴	6	6	10	1 ⁵	12 ⁶
Environmental assessment reports to Minister	0	2	3	1 ⁷	10 ⁸
Licences and approvals administered	68	106	120	164 ⁹	130
Compliance audits conducted	N/A [*]	9	30	26 ¹⁰	60 ¹¹
Responses to pollution incidences	161	136	160	286 ¹²	176
Enforcement action ¹³	0	3	2	4 ¹⁴	3
Grants to assist community, industry and local government to promote and implement sustainable practices	\$0.95M	\$1.02M	\$0.9M	\$0.95M ¹⁵	\$1.2M ¹⁶
Develop and implement key environmental initiatives including regulatory reform	5	6 ¹⁷	10	10 ¹⁸	10

Explanatory Notes to the Table

N/A* – This was a new performance measure for 2008–09. No historical reporting data is available.

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

2. There were fewer Notices of Intent assessed in 2010–11 than anticipated. The number of proposals assessed as a Notice of Intent is driven by the number and type of development proposals submitted by a proponent within any given year, and therefore difficult to accurately predict.

Notices of Intent assessed in 2010–11:

1. NTP 2530 Ruby Downs clearing 307ha
 2. Conversion of Pastoral Lease 773 Seven Emus
 3. NTP238 Kumbychants forestry – clearing 2214 ha
 4. Claravale Lease Conversion
 5. Temporary storage of fill on Section 5633 East Arm
 6. Temporary storage of fill Section 5720 East Arm
 7. Bulk Earthworks – Casino Accommodation Lot 5244
 8. Daly River Bridge
 9. Cullen River Bridge duplication
 10. Tiger Brennan Drive cutting for road duplication
 11. Central Arnhem Rd/Mainoru Crossing upgrade
 12. Temporary storage of fill Section 5722 East Arm
 13. Temporary storage of fill Section 4248 Berrimah Rd
 14. Rezone from Rural Living to Specific Use
 15. Lethbridge Bay South Mineral Sands Mine
 16. Subdivision to 2 Lots Humpty Doo
 17. Wangi Falls Visitor Centre
 18. Amendment to Tiger Brennan Drive duplication
 19. Bevex Explosives expansion
 20. Pine Creek Gold Project
 21. Zuccoli Stage 1 residential subdivision
 22. Rezone for Correctional Facility
 23. Doug Owston Correctional Centre Howard Springs
 24. Subdivision and Consolidation for Correctional Facility
 25. Skycity Casino Resort
 26. Ceres Downs land clearing
 27. Kilgariff regional development
 28. Seven Emus non pastoral use–tourism
 29. Wishart Industrial Precinct
 30. Channel Island Logistics Industrial Hub
 31. Frances Creek Mine Project
 32. Upgrade and sealing of Angurugu/Umbakumba Road
 33. Sherwin Iron – Roper River Iron Ore, Hodgson Down
 34. McArthur River Mine (MRM) Phase 3 Development Project
 35. Lot 139 Hundred of Howard clearing of native vegetation
 36. Mainoru Bridge Notice of Intent amendment
 37. SILL80 Ilmenite Project
 38. Cicada Lodge Nitmiluk National Park native vegetation clearing
 39. Amungee Mungee Station subdivide Perpetual Pastoral Lease
 40. Accommodation Facility Channel Island
 41. Arafura Aquatic Fish Aquaculture Project
 42. Traditional Trepang Traders Aquaculture Project
 43. Subdivision to create 93 lots, Girraween
 44. Territory Biofuels Project
3. An increase in Notices of Intent assessed is expected in 2011–12 compared to 2010–11 due to an anticipated increase in development activity.
4. Under the *Environmental Assessment Act*, when a project is determined to require environmental impacts assessment at the level of Public Environmental Report (PER) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), guidelines are issued by the Minister to the proponent to inform development of the PER or EIS.

5. Public Environmental Report Guidelines were issued for the SILL80 Project (Australian Ilmenite Resources). The number of guidelines issued is less than estimated because Notices of Intent for other projects anticipated to require formal assessment at the Public Environmental Report of Environmental Impact Statement level were either not submitted in 2010–11, or were submitted later than expected in 2010–11, not allowing time for the issue of guidelines in 2010–11.
6. A higher number of guidelines are expected to be issued in 2011–12 as a number of Notices of Intent for projects with potentially significant environmental impacts are currently being considered for further assessment.
7. One assessment report was provided to the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage for the Ichthys Gas Field Development Project (INPEX Browse Ltd). Assessment Reports for the BHP Olympic Dam Expansion (NT Transport Option) and East Arm Expansion projects were expected to be provided to the Minister, however the timing of submission of Environmental Impact Statements by project proponents will mean that Assessment Reports are now expected in 2011–12.
8. A higher number of environmental assessment reports are expected in 2011–12 due to the number of projects that are already undergoing environmental impact assessment.
9. Licences and approvals have increased due to identification of activities requiring licences and/or approvals under the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act* and the *Water Act*, which were previously unidentified.
10. Compliance audits refers to desktop audits, site inspections and site audits undertaken to ensure compliance with the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act* and Part 7 of the *Water Act*. The number of audits undertaken in 2010–11 increased compared to 2009–10 due to increased staffing capacity as a result of increased budget allocation for environmental compliance.
11. The number of compliance audits undertaken in 2011–12 is expected to increase due to the implementation of a more proactive approach to compliance which is guided by a Compliance Plan.
12. This figure is based on telephone calls received to the Pollution Response Line and other reporting of pollution incidences by the public. Responses to pollution incidences increased this year due to a heightened public interest and media reporting on pollution events.
13. Enforcement action includes prosecutions, infringements and pollution abatement notices. The figures do not include directions, such as Pollution Abatement Notices which have not been recorded, but will be in the future.
14. In 2010–11 four enforcement actions were issued which included;
 - Complaint lodged against Darwin Port Corporation for an alleged breach of Section 83(3) of the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act*; and
 - Three Pollution Infringement Notices issued for environmental nuisance issues of oil disposal and noise.

In 2009–10 three Pollution Abatement Notices were issued and remained in place for much of 2010–11. These were:

 - Pollution Abatement Notice issued to Oz Minerals Ltd on 21 April 2010 in relation to copper concentrate spills (has since been revoked);
 - Pollution Abatement Notice issued to the Darwin Port Corporation on 23 April 2010 in relation to copper concentrate spills (has since been revoked); and
 - Pollution Abatement Notice issued to Darwin Port Corporation on 24 May 2010 in relation to contaminated stormwater discharge (still in place at June 30, 2011).

15. Grants distributed in 2010–11 totalled \$950 354 and was provided to the following programs:

Program	Grants \$
EnvironmentNT grants program (Includes funding to Environment Centre NT and Arid Land Environment Centre)*	\$758 354
Cool Communities	\$100 000
Energy Smart Rebate (carry forward from 2009–10)	\$82 000
Keep Australia Beautiful National Litter Index	\$10 000
Total	\$950 354

*This figure includes \$42 000 of parameters and \$93 000 which comes from Protected Areas Conservation Output group.

16. Grants will increase due to an additional grant program being provided for the Container Deposit Scheme of \$300 000 and \$85 000 carry forward of Energy Smart Rebate monies.

17. Key environmental initiatives including regulatory reform were:

- 1) EnvironmentNT grants;
- 2) Drafting legislation for container deposit scheme;
- 3) *Darwin Harbour Strategy*;
- 4) Launch of Energy Smart Rebate Program;
- 5) Procured air quality stations; and
- 6) Commencement of East Arm Wharf investigations.

18. Key environmental initiatives including regulatory reform were:

- 1) Container Deposit Scheme – legislative assent;
- 2) Plastic Bag Ban – legislative assent / implementation;
- 3) Climate Change Adaptation Plan;
- 4) EnvironmentNT grants;
- 5) *Environmental Assessment Act* review;
- 6) *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act* review;

7) Integrated Monitoring Research Plan;

8) *Darwin Harbour Strategy*;

9) Ambient Air Quality – stations establishment; and

10) *Energy Smart Rebate Program*.

Key Achievements in 2010–11: Environment and Sustainability

1. Completed the environmental impact assessment of the Ichthys Gas Field Development Project (INPEX Browse Ltd) under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The Assessment Report was provided by the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage to the Minister for Lands and Planning on 17 May 2011.
2. Undertook a comprehensive investigation of copper concentrate incidents at East Arm Wharf, in Darwin Harbour. The investigation led to the prosecution of the Darwin Port Corporation for an alleged breach of the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act* and the matter was still before the court as at 30 June 2011.
3. Facilitated the passing of the *Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Act 2011* through Parliament in February 2011. Regulation of the supply of single use, non-biodegradable plastic bags will commence from 1 September 2011. Implementation has included an information, education and enforcement program for retailers and the community. Negotiations with key stakeholders continue for the implementation of the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS). Approvals processes for CDS coordinator, collection depots and container approvals are currently being finalised.
4. Amend the *Environmental Offences and Penalties Act* to double penalties for environmental offences and amendment of the *Water Act* to ensure the validity of Waste Discharge Licences.

5. Commenced major environmental regulatory reform by:
 - Developing environmental licensing for high risk activities under the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act*;
 - Drafting amendments to the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act* regarding the need to notify pollution incidents and the penalty around this activity;
 - Developing a new *Environmental Assessment Act*; and
 - Contributing to the harmonisation of environmental regulation on and off mining and petroleum tenements.
6. Issued an improved Waste Discharge Licence for Leanyer-Sanderson sewage treatment plant incorporating more stringent monitoring and reporting conditions.
7. Facilitated the assessment of environmental risks from new development proposals in the Northern Territory under the *Environmental Assessment Act* by managing the assessment of major developments including the BHP Billiton Olympic Dam Expansion (NT Transport Option), East Arm Port Expansion and ERA Ranger Heap Leach Facility proposals. Respective proponents are expected to submit Environmental Impact Statements in 2011–12.
8. Facilitated the development and initiation of the Darwin Harbour Integrated Monitoring and Research Program. This Program will draw together existing and new monitoring and research programs undertaken by various stakeholders (including Government) into an integrated program, to improve understanding of the health of the Harbour, to encourage ecologically sustainable development of the region and to provide a tool for environmental planning and decision making.
9. Led the Environmental Compliance Initiatives Taskforce established to oversee regulatory reforms including the development of an environmental licensing regime for high risk activities under the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act*, reform of the *Environmental Assessment Act*, and harmonisation of environmental regulation on and off mining and petroleum tenements.
10. Led the Territory Government's response to reports from the Environment Protection Authority on environmental impact assessment and ecologically sustainable development. The Agency has commenced development of a new *Environmental Assessment Act* consistent with the reform commitment announced by the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage, and prepared a response to the ecologically sustainable development report for government consideration.
11. Consulted with major port operators and owners on terms of reference for the review of environmental performance and regulation of Northern Territory ports. Progress on the review was delayed as investigations of incidents at East Arm Wharf and Alcan Gove took priority.
12. Installed the first Ambient Air Quality station near Palmerston in November 2010. Once fully operational monitoring of pollutants commenced in May 2011.
13. Supported community environmental management in the Territory by implementing the seventh round of the EnvironmeNT Grants Program distributing \$758 354 worth of grants. All recipients of 2010–11 Grants provided at Appendixes page 251.
14. Helped the community switch to energy saving products by processing over 1200 Energy Smart Program rebates amounting to over \$100 000 worth of monies rebated to Territorians.

Challenges in 2010–11: Environment and Sustainability

1. Meeting community expectation with regard to environmental assessment outcomes being transparent and scientifically rigorous.
2. Pursuing environmental regulation under a regulatory framework requiring reform in key areas poses a number of challenges. Ensuring reform commitments are met requires a balance of administrative and strategic responsibilities; and current legislation places limitations on the capacity to achieve best practice regulation.

Future Priorities in 2011–12: Environment and Sustainability

1. Delivering the Container Deposit Scheme within designated timelines and ensuring reasonable access to the scheme for the Territory community.
2. Facilitate the development and engagement of industry, government, community and research stakeholders in the Darwin Harbour Integrated Monitoring and Research Program, to improve understanding of the health of Darwin Harbour, to encourage ecologically sustainable development and stewardship of the region and to support sound environmental planning and decision making.
3. Finalise the *Northern Territory Waste Strategy* by June 2012. A key aim of the strategy is to assist in identifying and implementing strategies to achieve a 50 per cent reduction of waste to landfill by 2020.
4. Regulate the supply of single use, non-biodegradable plastic bags from 1 September 2011.
5. Complete re-drafting the *Environmental Impact Assessment legislation* in response to the Environment Protection Agency's review of environmental impact assessment in the Northern Territory.
6. Further progress reform of the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act* by establishing an environmental licensing regime for high risk activities and enacting amendments to offence and duty to notify provisions.
7. Coordinating and issuing approvals for relevant components of the Ichthys Gas Field Development Project (INPEX).
8. Development of a stormwater strategy for the Darwin region to improve awareness and management of stormwater impacts.

Output: Heritage Conservation

This output protects and conserves the Territory's heritage and cultural assets.

Performance Measures: Heritage Conservation

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Estimate	10–11 Actual	11–12 Budget
Assessment reports to Heritage Advisory Council	15	21	24	22 ¹	24
Assistance to privately owned heritage places	\$0.18M	\$0.25M	\$0.20M	\$0.24M ²	\$0.20M
Investment to maintain publicly owned heritage places	\$1M	\$0.94M	\$1M	\$0.51M ³	\$1M

Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. The 22 assessment reports to the Heritage Advisory Council for 2010–11 were provided over four meetings and included:
 1. North Australia Railway Corridor at 'The Narrows', Darwin;
 2. Former Finke School, Finke Community, south of Alice Springs;
 3. Old Finke Police Station, Finke Community, south of Alice Springs;
 4. Former Finke Post Office and Repeater Station, Finke Community, south of Alice Springs;
 5. Lolly Houses, Yuendumu, north-east of Alice Springs;
 6. Finke Railway Precinct and Railway Bores, Finke Community, south of Alice Springs;
 7. Larrimah Telephone Repeater Station, south-east of Katherine;
 8. Wildman River Catchment, western Arnhem Land;
 9. Chapman House, Alice Springs;
 10. Ida Standley Preschool, Alice Springs;

11. Southport Cemetery, south of Darwin;
12. Bunkers, Lee Point Road, Darwin;
13. Macassan Well, Milingimbi, east of Darwin;
14. WII Bomb Crater, McMinn Street, Darwin;
15. 8 Hingston Street, Parap, Darwin;
16. Corridors of Native Vegetation, Noonamah, south of Darwin;
17. Fergusson River Overland Telegraph Line Pylons, north of Katherine;
18. RAAF Receiving Building, Lee Point Road, Darwin;
19. Tropical A Precut House (Formerly 82 Woods Street), Darwin;
20. Railway Trestle Bridge and North Australian Railway corridor, north of Katherine River;
21. Mecca Date Farm, Alice Springs; and
22. Former Wallis Fogarty Store, Alice Springs.

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

2. Assistance provided to privately owned heritage places in 2010–11 was as follows:

Recipient	Project	Grant \$
Alice Springs Youth Centre	Restoration and Conservation of the Higgins Theatre	\$40 000
Centrecorp (Central Aboriginal Charitable Trust)	Construction and installation of double doors to the rear verandah at 82 Hartley Street Alice Springs	\$3 720
Christ Church Cathedral	Assist with the Christ Church Cathedral Restoration	\$39 470
Darwin City Council	Gardens Road Cemetery Site Restoration	\$30 000
Darwin Festival Association Incorporated	Production of <i>The Tent</i>	\$4 500
Engineers Australia Northern Division	Plaque for the <i>Young Australian</i> - Roper River	\$5 000
Friends of East Point	Ludmilla Salt Pans - Then and Now (Interpretative Signage)	\$2 650
Friends of the North Australia Railway Inc	Restoration work and signage at the Narrows Railway Bridge	\$1 500
Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory Inc	Southport Cemetery Marker	\$3 000
Megg Kelham	<i>For Love and Punishment</i> Heritage Site History Talk	\$5 000
Richard Luxton	Conservation of Coomalie Airstrip	\$8 000
Richard Luxton	Re-roof Sidney Williams Hut Camp 118 at 28 Westralia Street Stuart Park	\$12 000
National Trust (NT)	Alice Springs Heritage Festival	\$5 000
National Trust (NT)	<i>Ten Days at the Top</i> National Trust Heritage Festival	\$5 000
Kevin Rogers JP	The John McDouall Stuart Heritage and Nature Trail	\$10 000

Recipient	Project	Grant \$
Royal Australian Artillery Association (NT) Inc	Artillery Weapons Conservation - Darwin Military Museum	\$15 000
Travel North Pty Ltd	Concrete Verandah at Springvale Homestead, Katherine	\$2 620
Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (NT)	Repairs and Maintenance to Adelaide House, Alice Springs	\$28 200
Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (NT)	Repairs and Maintenance to John Flynn Memorial Church, Alice Springs	\$10 000
Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS)	Removal and replace hedge and fence to boundary of Alice Springs Visitor Centre	\$12 000
Total		\$242 660*

* The nominal grants budget is \$200 000 but additional funding was approved by the Territory Government for \$42 660, which was provided to four programs.

3. Investments made to maintain publicly owned heritage places for 2010–11 is the \$1 million Repairs and Maintenance Program for the conservation of Territory Government owned heritage assets. Funding for 2010–11 is shown in the following table:

Place	Project	\$
Darwin Region		
Charles Darwin National Park WWII Explosives Stores	Resecure front wall on Bunker No. 11	\$9 440
WWII Oil Storage Tunnels	Prepare and repaint oil pipes and steel structures	\$61 719
Qantas Hangar	Replace amperlite sky lights and install fire hydrant and emergency fire exits	\$69 664
Brown's Mart	Installation of air drain and connection of guttering downpipes to drainage system and various building works	\$40 710
Lyons Cottage	Replace perimeter fence	\$40 750
Stella Maris	Security doors, repainting	\$14 514
Katherine Region		
Daly Waters Aviation Complex	Demolition of termite damaged buildings	\$79 918
Katherine North Australia Railway Bridge	Replace missing and damaged safety railings	\$6 157
Elsy Memorial Cemetery	Replacement of faded and damaged interpretation signage	\$4 270
Larrimah WWII Telephone Repeater Station	Repairs and repainting	\$29 515

Place	Project	\$
Tennant Creek Region		
Bonney Well Windmill	Service mill oil boxes	\$3 540
Barrow Creek Telegraph Station	Install air drains to Buggy Shed and Store, replace water tanks and repair soil eroded areas	\$41 300
Alice Springs Region		
Araluen Homestead	Replacement of sacrificial lime wash to external walls	\$64 149
Whites Range Cemetery - Arltunga Historical Reserve	Install cattle proof fence and repair and replacement of decayed timber posts and rails around various grave sites	\$41 993
Total		\$507 639

* \$479 080 allocated to the 17 ½ Mile project was converted to Capital Works and carried over into 2011–12. Further investment outside the Repairs and Maintenance Program included \$120 700 at Strauss Airfield and \$54 300 at Brown's Mart (both Minor New Works)

Key Achievements in 2010–11: Heritage Conservation

- Completed the review of the *Heritage Conservation Act* by finalising a draft Bill for a new *Heritage Act*, for tabling in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly in 2011–12.
- Declared nine places as heritage places, as follows:
 - WWII Gorrie Airfield, Larrimah, south of Darwin;
 - Fort Wellington, Cobourg Peninsula, north-east of Darwin;
 - Maranboy Mining Precinct, south of Katherine;
 - 88 Mile Burrell Creek WWII Chemical Warfare Storage and Maintenance Depot and Camp Site (off Dorat Road, south of Adelaide River);
 - Djirurri Rock Shelter, Arnhem Land;

6. WWII Larrimah Telephone Repeater Station and Powerhouse, south of Darwin;
 7. Bullita Station Homestead Precinct and Stockyard, Gregory National Park, west of Katherine;
 8. WWII Coomalie Airstrip, south of Darwin; and
 9. Former Rum Jungle Mine Single Women's Quarters, Batchelor, south of Darwin.
4. Presented 22 heritage assessment reports to the Heritage Advisory Council for consideration for inclusion on the Northern Territory Heritage Register, which provides places with statutory protection under the *Heritage Conservation Act*.
 5. Implemented the \$1M annual Territory Government Repairs and Maintenance Program to government-owned heritage assets throughout the Territory.
 6. Allocated \$242 660 in grants to 20 recipients under the annual Northern Territory Government's Heritage Grants Program. All grant recipients are listed in the Appendixes on page 251.
 7. Finalised the rebuilding of the Northern Territory Heritage Register, which is now available as a searchable on-line database on the Agency's Internet.
 8. Reformatted 65 assessment reports, presented in the past to the Heritage Advisory Council, and placed them into the public domain through the Northern Territory Heritage Register.
 9. Oversaw construction work on heritage sites associated with the Defence of Darwin Experience project, and planned and documented work to 17½ Mile heritage site, ready for construction to commence in 2011–12.
 10. Completed \$120 700 of Minor New Works on the Strauss Airstrip, south of Darwin.

Challenges in 2010–11: Heritage Conservation

1. Finalising a draft Bill for a new *Heritage Act*, ready to table in the Assembly that will balance heritage protection and sustainable development.

Future Priorities in 2011–12: Heritage Conservation

1. Managing commencement of the new *Heritage Act* including putting in place new regulations, policies and procedures.
2. Enhance the interpretation of the Territory's natural and cultural heritage through the Defence of Darwin Experience project, and through the development of Heritage Trails.

Output Group: Arts and Culture

The Northern Territory holds a number of key cultural and scientific collections for the purposes of collection, conservation, exhibition and research into the Territory’s natural, historical and cultural heritage.

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

This Output Group is attributed \$42.61 million of the Department’s \$172.91 million budget.

There are two Outputs within this Output Group:

- Scientific and Cultural Collections
- Arts and Screen Sector

Output: Scientific and Cultural Collections

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

Functions of the Agency within this Output are:

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

Araluen Arts Centre

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

Performance Measures: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Araluen Arts Centre

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Estimate	10–11 Actual	11–12 Budget
Visitors to visual arts exhibitions	22 933	21 084	32 000	27 387 ¹	32 000
Visitor satisfaction with visual arts exhibitions	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%
Patrons attending cinema and performances	20 424	23 190	20 000	28 188 ²	20 000
Patron satisfaction with cinema and performances	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%

Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. While visitation to visual art events did not meet the estimated figure it did increase from the 2009–10 visitation. The lower than anticipated attendances can be accounted for by an over estimation of tourist visitation, which remained at a similar level to 2009–10 figures.
2. Attendance at theatre performances and cinema screenings exceeded the estimate with strong local visitation to these events, increasing by approximately 5 000.

Key Achievements in 2010–11: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Araluen Arts Centre

1. Released the *Araluen Cultural Precinct Development Plan 2010–2015* in December 2010. A number of key infrastructure projects highlighted in the Plan have already been funded or started, including a new air conditioning and gallery climate control system. The formation of the Araluen Cultural Precinct Community Reference Group will assist in guiding the Plan's implementation.
2. Increased community engagement through establishment of the Araluen Cultural Precinct Community Reference Group in June 2011, with membership including representatives of the Friends of Araluen group and the Alice Springs Town Council, along with general community members.
3. Received \$4.5M in funding for a new water cooled air conditioning system for the Araluen Arts Centre, which will be constructed and commissioned in 2011–2012.
4. Received funding for the design of a solar power generation project in partnership with CAT Projects and Alice Solar City, for the Araluen Art Centre. The project will see solar photovoltaic panels on the roof of the facility, in order to reduce the carbon footprint of the Araluen Art Centre.
5. Presented the 20th annual Desert Mob exhibition and associated events which increased audiences and achieved higher financial returns to participating art centres.
6. Developed and delivered the inaugural Theatre School Holiday program during the April 2011 school holidays, with activities in Dance and Drama, Photography, Hair and Makeup, Theatre Production, and Wearable Arts.
7. Presented 11 performances in the Araluen Arts Centre Theatre, as follows:
 1. I Don't Wanna Play House – Yirra Yaakin Aboriginal Corporation;
 2. Circus Oz;
 3. Wombat Stew – Gary Ginivan Productions;
 4. Twelfth Night – Bell Shakespeare;
 5. Blessings of the Earth – TaikOZ;
 6. Special Delivery – Patch Theatre Company;
 7. When The Rain Stops Falling – Brink Productions;
 8. The Mikado – Promac Productions Australia;
 9. Sunwrae String Quintet;
 10. Marc Isaac's Resurgence Band; and
 11. Three Bags Full – The Kransky Sisters.
8. Staged 14 exhibitions, as follows:

Temporary

 1. Desert Mob 2010;
 2. Art and Country – Works from the Araluen Arts Collection of Aboriginal Art;
 3. Tactile – Works from the Araluen Art Collection;
 4. Namatjira – The Next Generation;
 5. Going Places – Works from the Araluen Art Collection; and
 6. A Rich Legacy – Works from the Araluen Arts Collection of Aboriginal Art.

National

 7. Menagerie: Contemporary Indigenous Sculpture; and
 8. Anton Bruehl: In the Spotlight.

Local Community Exhibitions

9. The Advocate Art Award;
10. East To West – Ron Talbot;
11. Pmere Arntarntareme (Watching This Place) – Watch This Space;
12. Travels With Moree – Sarah Brown;
13. Colour My World – Territory Quilts 2010 – Alice Springs Quilting Club; and
14. In Our Element: Earth, Wind, Water, Fire – The Alice Springs Beanie Festival Exhibition.

Challenges in 2010–11: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Araluen Arts Centre

1. Attracting high quality performances to the Araluen Arts Centre during times when funding from Playing Australia, which subsidises national touring projects, is limited.
2. Maintaining visitation to visual art exhibitions and displays in light of a decline in tourism numbers.

Future Priorities in 2011–12: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Araluen Arts Centre

1. Establish an overall Site Plan for the Araluen Cultural Precinct, inclusive of all proposed developments to the Araluen Arts Centre, in conjunction with the Araluen Cultural Precinct Community Reference Group, and with reference to the *Araluen Cultural Precinct Development Plan 2010–2015*.
2. Build and commission a new water cooled air conditioning plant for the Araluen Arts Centre.
3. Develop and install a solar photovoltaic system on the roof of the Araluen Arts Centre in order to reduce electricity consumption and reduce the carbon footprint of the facility.
4. Develop and support community access to the Araluen Arts Centre by local artists, arts organisations, schools and community groups and assist local productions to achieve high performance standards and good audiences.

Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory

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

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

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Estimate	10–11 Actual	11–12 Budget
Visitors	311 027	284 134	286 100	278 856 ³	288 000
Visitor satisfaction	95%	95%	95%	99% ⁴	95%
Exhibitions	6	7	11	11 ⁵	11
Collection accessible to the public	26%	26%	27%	25% ⁶	27%

Explanatory Notes to the Table

3. The Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory in Darwin attracted 250 891 visitors to the following venues:

- Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory;
- Fannie Bay Gaol;
- Australian Pearling Exhibition; and
- Lyons Cottage.

The Museum of Central Australia and Strehlow Research Centre in Alice Springs attracted 16 004 visitors.

The Central Australian Aviation Museum in Alice Springs attracted 11 961 visitors.

4. The 2010–11 figure relates to the *MAGNT Visitor Intercept Survey finalised by McGregor Tan Research June 2011*
5. Eleven exhibitions were held by the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory:
 1. 27th National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award;
 2. Wildlife of Gondwana;
 3. ACDC: Australia’s Family Jewels;
 4. Exit Art: contemporary youth art of Northern Territory Year 12 students 2010;
 5. Ancestral Power and the Aesthetic: paintings and objects from the Donald Thomson Collection;
 6. Australian Portraits 1880–1960;
 7. Bombing of Darwin and the loss of the Don Isidro;
 8. Living Gondwana: Cycads in the NT;
 9. Supercrocodilians: Darwin’s Ultimate Survival Story;
 10. Behind the Wire;
 11. Wildflowers: Central Australia on Kodachrome, Alice Springs.
6. Limited gallery space precludes having all collections on public display at any one given time. In some instances collection materials are culturally sensitive and therefore not accessible to the public.

Key Achievements in 2010–11: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory

1. Delivered the *27th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* which fostered the involvement of 96 Indigenous artists and their respective art centres from around Australia. The exhibition included a virtual online gallery with images of all artworks and audio recordings of the artists' statements. The exhibition attracted strong visitation and was supported by a series of floor talks.
2. Launched the publication *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award 1984–2008: celebrating 25 years*. The publication formally acknowledges the body of artwork produced over the first 25 years of the Award.
3. Showcased in partnership with Northern Territory Government's Department of Education and Training the artworks of 38 students in the exhibition *Exit Art: contemporary youth art of Northern Territory Year 12 students 2010*. This exhibition presented the developing visual arts practice of Territory students and facilitated their tertiary pathways into professional practice. A catalogue was produced to accompany the exhibition.
4. Provided key input to the content of the *Building Our Museums and Galleries Sector (BOMAGS) 10 Year Plan*. Employees on the BOMAGS Working Group assisted in developing the draft plan following community consultations and assessment of community feedback that informed the content of the final report, which will be presented to the government.
5. Provided grant funding through the Regional Museums Grant Support Program to eight museum organisations across the Northern Territory totalling \$222 000. All recipients of 2010–11 Grants provided at Appendixes page 251.
6. Successfully attracted two new Australian Research Council Linkage grants totalling \$351 000 over three years to undertake two projects designed to increase accessibility to the Strehlow Collection by Indigenous people, researchers and the general public.
7. Developed the Strehlow Research Centre genealogical database to increase accessibility to the Strehlow Collection by Aboriginal clients.
8. Supported the Return of Indigenous Cultural Property program through receipt and custodianship of human remains repatriated from the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, for return to communities at Milingimbi and Gunbalanya.
9. Facilitated the 2010 Alcoota fossil excavation program, south of Alice Springs, which included the installation of a Memorial and dedication ceremony to Dr Dirk Megirian.
10. Development of new partnerships with national bodies to provide increased opportunity for broader on-line access to collections including the Atlas of Living Australia and the Museums Metadata Exchange Project.
11. Supported the development of collections through accessioning of 5 977 lots of zoological specimens and 120 cultural items that contribute towards a permanent record of the natural and cultural heritage of the region.
12. Commenced creating the exhibition material for the Defence of Darwin Experience at East Point, Darwin. Construction of the \$10M Defence of Darwin visitor facility is expected to be completed in February 2012.

Challenges in 2010–11: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory

1. Delivering increased community expectations for digital and physical access to collections within constraints of technology and limitations of gallery and storage areas at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.

Future Priorities in 2011–12: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory

1. Develop a five year strategic plan through consultation with internal and external stakeholders to enable the Museum of Central Australia and Strehlow Research Centre to improve performance, engage audiences and respond to changes in the broader museum environment. The Strategic Plan will be informed by the *Building Our Museums and Galleries Sector 10 Year Plan* and completed in 2012.
2. Complete the migration of Strehlow Collection data to a new Collection Management System. This is the digitisation of Strehlow's Arrernte Family Trees and indexing of Strehlow's Field Diaries to facilitate public access to this exceptional historical and ethnographic material.
3. Return 70 per cent of the Indigenous secret / sacred objects and human remains holdings prioritised for repatriation under the Return of Indigenous Cultural Property Program. The national repatriation program has been recognised by the Australian Government as a key step towards closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage.
4. Develop a community engagement strategy and natural science based school outreach program in collaboration with the Arid Lands Environment Centre.
5. Complete construction and open the new Defence of Darwin Experience visitor facility at East Point. It is expected to open in February 2012 to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin. This will include a visitor experience of the World War II environment extending to heritage sites around Darwin.

Northern Territory Library

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

Performance Measures: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Northern Territory Library

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Estimate	10–11 Actual	11–12 Budget
Onsite visits ⁷	149 287	146 352	180 000	146 836	180 000
Website visits ⁸	564 000	450 161	800 000 ⁹	359 604	800 000
Visitor satisfaction ¹⁰	92%	90%	90%	90%	90%
References enquiries satisfied within 48 hours ¹¹	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%
Grants distributed ¹²	\$3.5M	\$3.5M	\$3.6M	\$3.6M	\$3.7M

Explanatory Notes to the Table

7. Visitors by electronic door count to the Northern Territory Library at Parliament House.
8. Website visits are measured using NetTracker. These figures are a total number of visits to our websites and are compiled from the Northern Territory Library website and other publically available websites, such as Territory Stories and the Parliamentary Library Service.
9. During preparation of estimate figures an administration error was made in calculating the estimates. The figure included should be disregarded.
10. Visitor satisfaction is measured through customer surveys conducted over a four week period (April/May).
11. The percentage of reference enquiries satisfied within 48 hours or, if it is determined that a longer period is required, within agreed revised timeframes.
12. Grants distribution is governed by the Public Library Agreement. Total payments vary from year to year in accordance with CPI and other adjustments. The list of grants distributed in 2010–11 is as follows:

Grant Recipient	Grant \$
Tiwi Islands Shire Council	56 741
Coomalie Community Government Council	45 595
East Arnhem Shire Council	192 514
West Arnhem Shire Council	87 138
Victoria River - Daly Shire Council	135 773
Roper Gulf Shire Council	146 918
Barkly Shire Council	162 117
Central Desert Shire Council	79 032
MacDonnell Shire Council	34 450
Ayers Rock Resort Management	31 500
Alyangula Area School	31 500
Darwin City Council Libraries	1 324 874
Alice Springs Town Council	516 570
Palmerston City Council	512 997
Katherine Town Council	228 281
Total	\$3 586 000

Key Achievements in 2010–11: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Northern Territory Library

1. Developed the Bi-lingual Baby Board Book project through community-specific early childhood resources using stories selected by community members and illustrated by community artists. The books will be provided to babies born in each participating community for the next five years.
2. Celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Northern Territory Library by exhibiting 30 significant items from the Library's collection and publishing an accompanying booklet. The exhibition fostered greater public understanding of the Library's role in preserving Territory history and significant cultural assets for future generations.
3. Presented the Northern Territory Library's first touring exhibition *The Track: 1000 Miles to War*, which was displayed in Darwin and Alice Springs. The exhibition focused on the Stuart Highway during the Second World War, including the building of roads and airfields, and the establishment of defence bases and infrastructure that occurred as the Allied forces prepared to defend northern Australia.
4. Collaborated with the National Library of Australia to enable all Northern Territory newspapers published prior to 1955 to be searchable on the Internet. The newspapers involved are: *Centralian Advocate* to 1954; *Moonta Herald*; *North Australian*; *Northern Standard*; *Northern Territory News*; and *Northern Territory Times and Gazette*.
5. Digitised the Northern Territory Parliament's Hansards for the 1st to 5th Assemblies, and made them available online in the Northern Territory Library's Territory Stories database. The text of the Northern Territory Parliamentary Record is now fully searchable on the Internet.

6. Established an online index of published biographies, Territory women who have made a significant contribution to Territory life. This index contains 400 biographies of women from the pioneering days of the 1870's to the present, and contains references and links to sources of information in print and online, and photographic images.
7. Participated in the National Simultaneous Storytime where Taminmin Community Library, south of Darwin, live streamed their event over the Internet. *Feathers for Phoebe* by Rod Clement was read by local identity and puppeteer Eliza Tobin and streamed using web TV via the Northern Territory Library website.

Challenges in 2010–11: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Northern Territory Library

1. Developing the *Family Literacy Strategy* due to staff turnover and subsequent loss of expertise. Work on the strategy will be undertaken in conjunction with the National and State Library Australasia Literacy and Learning working group in 2012.
2. Raised expectations and highlighted changes to the community of the mixture of services that public libraries deliver through the recent release of the National Standards and Guidelines for Public Libraries.
3. Developing *Community Stories* in partnership with the Pitjantjatjara Council was delayed due to the slow delivery of the software and limited ability to travel to communities during the excessive Wet season.
4. Completing the Remembering Territory Families project designed to record the history of major Territory families which have contributed to the making of the Territory. A static exhibition is to be held in 2011–12 to conclude the project.

Future Priorities in 2011–12: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Northern Territory Library

1. Finalise and implement a new Public Library Agreement, articulating the role and responsibilities of local government in the Northern Territory for the funding and provision of public library services.
2. Roll-out *Community Stories* to libraries and other public Internet access points that do not have current database and ensure the program is available to all Territory Growth Towns.
3. Incorporate the 2012 National Year of Reading objectives in the development of the *Family Literacy Strategy*, emphasising multi-literacy and an arts-based approach to delivering programs.
4. Embed the use of digital technologies and video conferencing tools in regular work practices to engage with colleagues and stakeholders online and support ongoing skills development of remote community members.

Northern Territory Archives Service

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

Performance Measures: Northern Territory Archives Service

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Estimate	10–11 Actual	11–12 Budget
Visitors	927	944	1 200	855 ¹³	1 200
Website visits	NA*	10 840	50 000	34 070 ¹⁴	50 000
Archives collections managed	3 097	3 137	3 200	3 188	3 500
Archives issued to researchers	20 733	19 881	22 000	26 625 ¹⁵	22 000
Research requests satisfied within one month	98%	99%	98%	99%	98%

Explanatory Notes to the Table

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

13. This figure represents a slight decline from previous years due to improvements in identification and retrieval processes available through the Internet. The original estimate was based on anticipated growth in patronage at the proposed co-located facility with National Archives of Australia, which did not occur in 2010–11.
14. This new key deliverable was introduced during 2010–11. Back-casting of website visit data was only possible for 2009–10. Despite the estimate for 2010–11 not being achieved, there has been a significant increase in website visits compared to 2009–10, due to the introduction of the Archives Navigator in February 2011 which provides Internet access to archives collections for clients.

15. This figure shows a higher than expected increase and is likely the result of improved access to the archives collections through the launch of the Archives Navigator website which provides a greater searching facility of the archives collections and identification of useful records.

Key Achievements in 2010–11: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Northern Territory Archives Service

- Successfully launched the Archives Navigator website in February 2011 to provide Internet access to archives collections for clients, including keyword searching of the archives collections.
 - Launched new digital exhibitions including *It wasn't all chop picnics*; about life in the Top End for Defence personnel during the Second World War, and the *Evolution of Darwin*.
 - Released the 1980 Cabinet Records on 1 January 2011 in accordance with the *Information Act*, to provide access to government archives that are over 30 years of age. Documents released included the decision to trial Territory Day fireworks, establish a Northern Territory University and construct the NT Police and Emergency Services headquarters at Berrimah. Digitised copies of key decisions are available on the Agency's website.
 - Issued \$50 000 to 22 recipients as part of the Northern Territory History Grants Program to promote and assist with the research of Northern Territory history. Projects included:
 - research the life and work of the medical pioneer Cecil Cook;
 - research the use of radar against the Japanese between 1943 and 1945;
 - research and record oral histories relating to the evacuation of missionaries and children from Croker Island to Sydney after the bombing of Darwin; and
 - research the climate in the Top End from 1820–1960.
- All recipients of 2010–11 Grants provided at Appendixes page 251.

5. Transferred 48 archives collections from Territory Government agencies and community donors. This included Indigenous medical and family history cards from the Department of Health in Central Australia, colloquially known as the ‘Kelly cards’ after the name of the nursing sister who recorded family history information for Indigenous people on the records. These will be an invaluable resource for Aboriginal people from Central Australia researching their family history to reconnect with family and culture.
6. Authorised the single largest records disposal schedule since the introduction of the *Information Act* for Darwin City Council (encompassing 954 classes of records). The disposal schedule is the result of two year’s work by the Council and the Archives Service and will be used as a model by other local government authorities across the Northern Territory.
7. Recorded 29 Oral History interviews which were lodged for preservation and access, such as interviews on the history of the Cattlemen’s Association and the cattle industry, including the development of stations, Vestey’s Meatworks and the livestock export trade.

Challenges in 2010–11: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Northern Territory Archives Services

1. Development of procedures for the provision of services in a co-located facility with the National Archives of Australia. Co-location arrangements were delayed while lease negotiations are ongoing, and should be finalised during 2011–12.
2. Effective and efficient management of increasing volume of donated community and personal archives collections.
3. Improving public access to government and community archives while managing competing priorities and uncertainty regarding timeframes for the co-location with National Archives of Australia.

Future Priorities in 2011–12: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Northern Territory Archives Services

1. Finalise arrangements for co-location and successfully relocate archives collection and services to a new facility to meet legislative responsibilities under the *Information Act* for the transfer and preservation of Territory Archives, and the provision of public access to the collections.
2. Continue enhancement of the archives management system for public and government access to the archives collections through improved design of the website and to ensure compatibility with new operating systems, and increase the volume of data available for searching.
3. Continued promotion of the archives collections through exhibitions, increased content available online and involvement in projects such as the establishment of the Defence of Darwin Experience.
4. Development of a strategy for the retention and preservation of digital archives (including the Oral History collection) in a continually evolving electronic environment.

George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens

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

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

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Estimate	10–11 Actual	11–12 Budget
Visitors	345 800	209 646	243 000	231 500 ¹⁶	250 000
Visitor satisfaction	98%	95%	95%	95%	95%
Special events	4	5	3	5 ¹⁷	5
Functions	83	108	91	86 ¹⁸	100

Explanatory Notes to the Table

16. Actual figures are collected by daily traffic counters and inherently contain a margin of error. Visitor numbers to the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens were below the 2010–11 estimates due to lower tourist numbers across Darwin.

17. Special events hosted this year included the:

1. Tropical Garden Spectacular and Top End Sustainable Living Festival;
2. Nightcliff Orchid Society Annual Show;
3. 16th International Bromeliad Conference in the refurbished Plant Display House;
4. Teddy Bears' Picnic; and
5. Darwin Annual Food and Wine Tasting Fair.

This number is higher than the estimate due to the refurbished Plant Display House having attracted the 16th International Bromeliad Conference and the Nightcliff Orchid Society Annual Show.

18. Functions formally booked through the Gardens' Orientation Centre included birthdays, weddings, workshops, art exhibitions, corporate events, book launches, family fun days and memorials. There were 113 bookings processed during this time, with 27 later cancelled prior to the date. The difference between estimate and actual relates to a slightly higher number of cancellation of bookings.

Key Achievements in 2010–11: Scientific and Cultural Collections – George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens

1. Upgraded and refurbished the Plant Display House and hosted the International Bromeliad Conference which was achieved through a partnership with the Friends of the Botanic Gardens.
2. Enhanced the Community Food Garden through increased number of plots, planting and the use of systems that recycle water and materials on site through a partnership with the Community Food Gardens group.
3. Delivered a two-week Permaculture Design Course for community food gardeners and the wider community. The course was delivered by Michelle Shugg, a local landscape architect and enabled participants to receive an accredited certification in permaculture. Permaculture is a design system for creating sustainable communities, including sustainable food production.
4. Held the first Sustainable Schools Day involving 200 students from 11 schools. Students planted a raised garden bed, learned about climate change, biodiversity, resource management, cane toads and recycling, and produced eco-art and recycling information posters for the Tropical Garden Spectacular and Top End Sustainable Living Festival. This was achieved in partnership with the Environment Centre NT as a satellite event of the Tropical Garden Spectacular and Top End Sustainable Living Festival.

5. Offered a series of free art workshops for children on a once-per-month basis over the Dry season. These featured natural found materials and encouraged families to reconnect with the inherent values of nature. This was achieved in partnership with the Friends of the Botanic Gardens and other community volunteers and is ongoing.
6. Commenced extensive volunteer partnerships with Larrakeyah and Wanguri Primary Schools, with students taught skills and knowledge in horticulture and permaculture in exchange for volunteering their time in the Gardens.
7. Commenced a new partnership with the Northern Territory Government's Department of Education and Training in the form of educational resource packages that target the educational potential of a number of gardens experiences (such as the Rainforest, Community Food Garden and Aboriginal Plant Use Walk etc.).
8. Prepared a series of six draft concept plans for the Permaculture Design Course for the Primary Loop, including input from horticulturists, a landscape architect and students. These were displayed as part of the Tropical Garden Spectacular and Top End Sustainable Living Festival for community feedback and a shortlist will be refined for execution in 2011–12.
9. Developed two Work Experience partnerships with Taminmin College and Henbury School.

Challenges in 2010–11: Scientific and Cultural Collections – George Brown Botanic Darwin Gardens

1. Integrating effective stormwater management across the Gardens taking into consideration current development plans of two properties which are situated on the boundaries of the Gardens.
2. Recovering from the effects of Tropical Cyclone Carlos in February that caused severe damage to the Gardens and its infrastructure, resulting in the closure of the facility for several days.
3. Meeting increasing levels of community interest and engagement such as increased school visits, the expansion of the Community Food Gardens and broader community partnerships while continuing to meet expectations regarding the quality of maintenance regimes.

Future Priorities in 2011–12: Scientific and Cultural Collections – George Darwin Brown Botanic Gardens

1. Promote and develop community public programs to engage with an expanding range and number of key stakeholders and the general public.
2. Further develop the Primary Loop through planting and landscaping to connect the lower and upper regions of the Gardens.
3. Commence a staged-project to interpret the history and rebuild the Holtze Steps, and in partnership with the Friends of the Botanic Gardens, create a linked pathway to connect the Plant Display House to the Rainforest.

Northern Territory Herbarium

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

Performance Measures: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Northern Territory Herbarium

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Estimate	10–11 Actual	11–12 Budget
Specimens in the collection	238 795	242 078	244 000	245 810 ¹⁹	248 000
Research requests satisfied within one month	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%

Explanatory Notes to the Table

19. The Northern Territory Herbarium collection increases in the number of specimens daily. There is no set expected number of yearly acquisitions as the Herbarium participates in an exchange program with other herbaria and staff also adds to the collection through various plant surveys. In 2010–11 the Herbarium collection grew by 3 732 data-based accessions (including Palmerston and Alice Springs).

Key Achievements in 2010–11: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Northern Territory Herbarium

1. Provided identifications and advice on Northern Territory flora and plant species of conservation significance to some 500 enquiries including over 2 000 plant identifications. This information was provided to the general public, Charles Darwin University, interstate and international agencies, industry and consultants, and Northern Territory Government agencies.
2. Finalised the *Flora of the Darwin Region Volume 1*, and made it available on the Agency's website. It describes and illustrates approximately 430 of the estimated 1 500 or more species of vascular plants that are found in the Darwin Region.
3. Conducted field surveys across the Territory to enhance knowledge of plant species of conservation significance and floristic biodiversity at:
 - Keep River National Park, west of Katherine;
 - Howard River Sand Plains, south of Darwin;
 - Weddell proposed development south of Palmerston; and
 - Numerous Central Australia expeditions (Mt Olga, Plenty River, Hale River, lakes in the northern Simpson Desert, Docker river area, Loves Creek, Huckitta Station, Uluru, Utopia and Butlers Dome).
4. Discovered new species and subspecies through field surveys, of which 17 species and one subspecies were formally described in accordance with the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature*. At least six of which were previously known as phrase names.

Formally described species and subspecies:

 - *Aristida jacobiana*
 - *Ceriops pseudodecandra*
 - *Cleome bundeica*

- *Cleome insolata*
 - *Cleome limmenensis*
 - *Digitaria cowei*
 - *Eleocharis jacobiana*
 - *Eleocharis rivalis*
 - *Eleocharis sanguinolenta*
 - *Eleocharis triquetra*
 - *Hymenachne* × *calamitosa*
 - *Indigofera cornuligera*
 - *Lobelia heterophylla* subsp. *centralis*
 - *Sesbania burbridgeae*
 - *Sesbania muelleri*
 - *Stylidium exiguum*
 - *Stylidium notabile*
 - *Stylidium osculum*
5. Identified five phrase name taxa. The term phrase name is used for an informal name given to a plant that has not been given a formal scientific name.
- *Cleome* sp. Flying Fox Creek (D.J.Dixon 1089 and I.D.Cowie)
 - *Cleome* sp. large coastal (M.J.Barritt 1797)
 - *Crosslandia* sp. Wilton River (P.K. Latz 2774)
 - *Thysanotus* sp. Eremaean (S. van Leeuwen 1067)
 - *Thysanotus* sp. long flowers (D.E. Albrecht 13681)
6. Discovered new findings which include:
- New Typhonium species from the Utopia area;
 - New record of Eremophila for the Northern Territory;
 - Collections of undescribed lilies including *Caesia* and *Tricoryne* spp;
 - Recorded the most important Gidgee/Eremophila *dalyana* community on Huckitta Station; and

- Three new weeds were recorded for the Alice Springs area. *Eragrostis minor* (Stinkgrass) has spread rapidly over most of Central Australia.

7. Progressed the online MacFlora interactive key illustrations and species fact sheets to assist in the identification of flora in the MacDonnell ranges and wider region.

Challenges in 2010–11: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Northern Territory Herbarium

1. Implemented a targeted staff restructure to more broadly focus the direction of the Herbarium to include greater community engagement.

Future Priorities in 2011–12: Scientific and Cultural Collections – Northern Territory Herbarium

1. Launch *Flora NT* mid 2012; a publicly available flora website and associated database for the Northern Territory that will allow the community to access and search the Herbarium's corporate plant information. The website will generate fact sheets on plants of the Northern Territory including species descriptions, conservation status, images and identification tools.
2. Continue progression on the MacFlora interactive key by completing the keys and commencing the development of species fact sheets and illustrations. This is an ongoing project and will assist in the identification of flora in the MacDonnell ranges and wider region.
3. Complete the technical report for the proposed Limmen National Park, south-east of Katherine.
4. Continue to formally describe Northern Territory phrase name taxa and new species discoveries.

Output: Arts and Screen Sector

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

Performance Measures: Arts and Screen Sector

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Estimate	10–11 Actual	11–12 Budget
Grants distributed	\$5.7M	\$6.06M	\$6.6M	\$6.25M ¹	\$6.8M
Formalised partnerships ²	4	8	7	6	9
Stakeholder satisfaction	96%	81%	85%	96%	85%

Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Grants funding distributed is derived from total monies committed in 2010–11 and includes paid and accrued funds. The amount of grants distributed was \$6.25M and was comprised of Arts NT \$5.76M and NT Film Office \$0.49M grants. The under expenditure of the estimated figure for 2010–11 is due to delays in finalising some grants. Unspent funding will be carried forward into 2011–12.

All recipients of 2010–11 Grants provided at Appendixes page 251.

Arts and Screen Sector Grants Programs	Grants \$
Arts NT	
Arts Organisations	3 337 965
Festivals	1 042 538
Project Rounds	304 582
Quick Response Scheme	40 020
Strategic Initiatives	517 346
Public Art	382 000
Community Grants	\$134 016
Total	\$5 758 467
Northern Territory Film Office (NTFO) Program	
Industry and Screen Culture	24 940
Screen Culture Funding	80 106
Ignite	68 300
Bob Plasto Screen Fellowship	20 000
Travel Funding	37 409
Strategic Initiatives	288 838
Total	\$494 653
Total Arts and Screen Sector Grants	\$6 253 120

2. Six formalised partnerships have been achieved, one less than anticipated.

Formalised partnerships include memorandums of understanding and joint funding programs. There were six joint funding and program arrangements in 2010–11:

- Agreements with the then Australian Government Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts for Regional Arts funding.
- Agreements with the Australian Government Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Office of the Arts.
- Arrangements with the Australia Council for the Arts for Community and Partnership Support Services.
- Arrangements with the Australia Council for the Arts for Creative Education Partnerships: *Artists-In-Residence*.
- Agreement with Regional Arts Australia to undertake a Northern Territory project as part of the National Strategic Initiative Projects.
- Agreement with Screen Australia, the Australian Government film funding agency to support audience development through Screen Culture activities.

Key Achievements in 2010–11: Arts and Screen Sector

1. Converted the ground floor of the Chan Building in Darwin's State Square precinct into the Chan Contemporary Art Space. This Space opened to the public on 3 September 2010 with the high profile Togart Award. Since then another five exhibitions have been held attracting a total audience to date of 4 903.
2. Taken a lead role as a member of the Project Control Group and Interim Board of Management for the Katherine Regional Cultural Precinct. Construction of Stage 1A by local Katherine company AJL Holdings is to be completed early 2012.
3. Significantly progressed the revision of the *Living Arts* policy to be in line with *Territory 2030* and *Working Future* policy targets. The Policy is expected to be finalised in 2011–12.
4. Commissioned, as part of a Working Group with the Darwin City Council and the Darwin Performing Arts Centre Ltd, Mr Justin Macdonnell from Anzarts Ltd to conduct an independent review of funding and governance frameworks for the Darwin Entertainment Centre.
5. Successfully delivered \$6.25M in grants funding through Arts and Screen Grants Programs. All recipients of 2010–11 Grants provided at Appendixes on page 251.
6. Provided an increase of \$0.5M for the Festivals Development program for the Darwin Festival ongoing from 2010–11. Total funding for Darwin Festival is now \$1M from the Territory Government.
7. Successfully delivered \$148 600 to Territory screen projects, with a total of \$80 000 for production which will result in an estimated \$1.6M being spent in the Territory.
8. Supported the development of the inaugural Darwin International Film Festival in September 2010 with a grant of \$0.02M.
9. Commenced the *Being a Territory: Schools' Digital Art* competition to mark the Northern Territory centenary in 2011. The five winning schools from across the Territory will have their digital works projected in prominent public sites in Darwin and Alice Springs.
10. Led the feature film screenplay development initiative IGNITE resulting in five feature films being written by Territorians and successfully developed; led REALISATOR which supported 20 Territorians in developing documentary programs and brought commissioning editors from ABC and SBS to Darwin.
11. Supported the third series of *Yarning Up* jointly funded by the Agency, Screen Australia, ABC TV and NITV. Filming at Pirlangimpi, Milikapiti and Numbulwar will be undertaken in July 2011 for broadcast on ABC TV and NITV on 21 October 2011.

Challenges in 2010–11: Arts and Screen Sector

1. Operating under an interim Arts funding framework due to a publicised policy review for 2009–11 leading to transitional arrangements for organisations and programs.
2. Realigned priorities to develop an entirely new program involving the Chan Contemporary Art Space through the provision of development and presentation grants totalling \$150 000 in 2010–11 to assist exhibition presenters.

Future Priorities in 2011–12: Arts and Screen Sector

1. Develop and deliver a new funding framework harmonised with the new *Living Arts* policy and aligned with *Territory 2030* and *Working Future* policy targets.
2. Manage the implementation of the Agency's new Grants Management System for the Northern Territory Arts Sector.
3. Finalise the Katherine Regional Cultural Precinct Business Plan and pursue operational funding partners to achieve functionality and arts outcomes for the opening of the Precinct in early 2012.
4. Deliver the Agency's NT Film Office's programs and activities to meet community and industry expectations within the funding framework.

Output Group: Sport and Recreation

This Output Group provides opportunities for Territorians to participate in sport and active recreation, optimises performance opportunities for athletes, delivers sporting events and is responsible for construction and maintenance of sporting facilities. The overall outcome is to provide opportunities for Territorians to have a lifelong involvement in sport and active recreation on a regular basis at whatever level they choose.

This Output Group is attributed \$28.82 million of the Department's \$172.91 million budget.

There are three Outputs within this Output Group:

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

Output: Sports Development

This output develops and delivers quality grant and other programs to build the capacity and sustainability of the sporting and active recreation sector across the Territory.

Performance Measures: Sports Development

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Estimate	10–11 Actual	11–12 Budget
Value of grants distributed ¹	\$12.06M	\$10.49	\$8.4M	\$15.21M ²	\$8.6M
Organisations that received Sportsbiz services ³	9	8	7	7	7
Community programs delivered	46	45	52	58 ⁴	52
Community Sport and Recreation positions funded	56	58	58	59 ⁵	58

Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Grants are distributed to a variety of organisations, shires, clubs and individuals that promote and provide sport and active recreation services.

Grants Distributed – Ongoing Programs	Grant \$M
Peak Sport and Recreation	\$3.60
Active Remote Communities	\$1.28
Facilities Development Grant	\$1.01
National League Incentive	\$0.35
Grass Roots Development	\$0.19
Special Assistance	\$0.28
Closing the Gap – Funding provided to support Community Sport and Recreation Officers in remote communities	\$1.00
Total	\$7.71

One-Off Grant Payments	Grant \$M
National Rugby League Cowboys match payment	\$0.10
National Basketball League Pre Season Tournament payment	\$0.20
Women's National Basketball League match payments	\$0.15
Australian Football League annual fee	\$1.00
Australian Football League match day payments	\$0.24
Jiu Jitsu Australian Champions' Cup	\$0.03
Brumbies Rugby Union match payment	\$0.30
Hockey NT Facilities capital grant	\$0.50
Freds Pass Reserve Facilities capital grant	\$0.98
Squash NT facility grant	\$4.00
Total	\$7.50
Total Sports Development Grants	\$15.21

2. Higher than anticipated grants were distributed due to a number of new event agreements being executed such as the Women’s National Basketball League match agreements and the Jiu Jitsu agreement. New agreements were also executed for major facilities development for NT Squash and at Freds Pass Reserve, NT Hockey and a number of other development projects.
3. Sportsbiz services were provided for the following sporting organisations:
 - Basketball NT – Assistance to conduct a business review and support to develop new business plan and to employ a CEO.
 - Baseball NT – Assistance to conduct a business review and support to develop business plan and employ a development officer.
 - NT Rugby League – Assistance to conduct a business review and support to implement online Board Management Portal.
 - Gymnastics NT – Assistance to review and resolve issues relating to facility use.
 - Cycling NT – Assistance to develop a strategic plan.
 - Boxing NT – Assistance with Diversionary Program implementation, facility development funding and commencement of a business review.
 - Hockey NT – Assistance to develop a strategic plan.
4. In accordance with the funding agreement with the Australian Sports Commission, 58 community programs were delivered as scheduled including: Assessor Training, Strategic Awareness, Beginner Coaching General Principles, Grants information sessions, Sportschat/Industry Breakfasts, Development Officer Network Meetings, Cert IV in Training, Active After School Joint Project, Wheelchair Basketball, Disability Forum, Coloured Shirt Program, Community Hoops Basketball Program, Basic Level 0 coaching clinics, Footprints Football program, Yipirinya Bush Schools Swimming and Lifestyle, Belyuen AFL Auskick Program and the Recreation program.

5. Sport and recreation positions funded in communities:

Community	Number of positions	\$ Funding
BARKLY SHIRE		
Tennant Creek		\$35 608
Ali Curung		\$35 608
Aherrenge		\$35 608
Urapuntja		\$35 608
Alpurrurulam		\$35 608
Elliot		\$35 608
Barkly Shire Total	6	\$213 648
CENTRAL DESERT SHIRE		
Anmatjere		\$35 608
Arltarpiita		\$35 608
Lajamanu		\$35 608
Nyirripi		\$35 608
Yuelamu		\$35 608
Yuendumu		\$35 608
Mentor position		\$40 000
Central Desert Shire Total	7	\$253 648
EAST ARNHAM SHIRE		
Milingimbi		\$35 608
Ramingining		\$35 608
Galiwinku		\$35 608
Gapuwiyak		\$35 608
Yirrkala		\$35 608
Mangarr		\$35 608
Umbakumba		\$35 608
Angurugu		\$35 608
East Arnhem Shire Total	8	\$284 864

Community	Number of positions	\$ Funding
MACDONNELL SHIRE		
Areyonga		\$17 364
Aputula		-
Ikuntji		\$17 366
Imanpa		-
Kaltukatjara		-
Ntaria		\$17 364
Papunya		\$17 365
Walungurru		\$17 364
Amoonguna		\$17 364
Ltyentye Apurte		\$17 364
Tapatjatjaka		\$17 365
Watiyawanu		\$17 364
Wallace Rockhole		-
Hermannsburg		-
Mutiŋjulu		-
MacDonnell Shire Total	9	\$156 280
ROPER GULF SHIRE		
Borroloola		\$35 608
Numbulwar Numburindi		\$35 608
Nyirranggulung Mardruk Ngadberre		\$35 608
Yugul Mangi - Ngukurr		\$35 608
Yugul Mangi - Ngukurr		\$35 608
Mataranka		\$35 608
Jilkminggan		\$35 608
Roper Gulf Shire Total	7	\$249 256
TIWI ISLAND SHIRE		
Nguiu		\$35 608
Milikapiti		\$35 608
Pirlangimpi		\$35 608
Tiwi Island Shire Total	3	\$106 824

Community	Number of positions	\$ Funding
VICTORIA DALY SHIRE		
Naiyu Nambiyu		\$35 608
Peppimenarti		\$35 608
Thamarrurr - Wadeye		\$35 608
Daguragu		\$35 608
Timber Creek		\$35 608
Walangeri Ngumpinku		\$35 608
Pine Creek		\$35 608
Victoria Daly Shire Total	7	\$249 256
WEST ARNHAM SHIRE		
Maningrida		\$35 608
Jabiru		\$35 608
Kunbarllanjja		\$35 608
Minjilang		\$35 608
Warruwi		\$35 608
West Arnhem Shire Total	5	\$178 040
NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS		
Anyinginyi Health Ab Corp		\$40 000
Mt Theo-Yuendumu Substance M AbC		\$36 978
Tangentyere Council		\$28 709
Comalie Council		\$30 178
Cox Peninsula - Wagait		\$20 178
Wurli Wurlinjang - Binjari Community position		\$33 846
Belyuen Community Council		\$33 846
Non-Government Organisations Total	7	\$223 735

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

Key Achievements in 2010–11: Sports Development

1. Secured funding of \$500 000 and commenced an 18 month Sports Demonstration Project to review service coordination of sport and recreation services in remote communities. Work has commenced reviewing services in five Territory Growth Towns – Nguiu, Wadeye, Yuendumu, Gunbalanya and Gapuwiyak.
2. Continued partnership with eight Northern Territory Local Government Shires to conduct the Shire Softball Competitions involving over 900 participants (players, coaches and officials), which provides pathways for attendance at the Northern Territory Softball Championship.
3. Partnered with the Lloyd McDermott Rugby Development Trust and Northern Territory Rugby Union to establish and coordinate the National Indigenous U18s Championships in Alice Springs. The Championships involved 80 participants from across Australia playing in a round robin format.
4. Partnered with Northern Territory Cricket in coordinating the Community Division of the 2011 Imparja Cup to ensure opportunities for Indigenous Communities to be involved in Cricket and further pathways into competitions.
5. Facilitated Beginner Coaching Courses for sports in Alice Springs (September 2010), Tennant Creek (November 2010), Katherine (November 2010), Gove (March 2011) and Jabiru (February 2011). A professional development workshop for Development Officers was also held in Darwin with over 25 participants and interstate presenters in December 2010.
6. Delivered successful programs including multi-sport gala days, tennis and cricket programs in Alice Springs, Katherine, Palmerston and Darwin with the Active After Schools Program to encourage primary school aged children to participate in sport. Over 100 children participated in the cricket event in Darwin.

7. Partnered with Swimming NT and Yipirinya Primary School to deliver the Bush Schools Swimming and Life Style Carnival held in November 2010. The Carnival attracted up to 200 hundred school children from around Central Australia. Two Australian Olympians and members of the Northern Territory Squad attended the 2010 event.
8. Developed Memorandums of Understanding with eight Northern Territory Local Government Shires, in order to assist the coordination and collaboration of *Working Futures* and *Closing the Gap* outcomes. Agreed actions are reviewed through regular meetings with the Shires.

Challenges in 2010–11: Sports Development

1. Influencing peak sporting organisations, clubs and associations to apply best practice governance and sport development pathways in order to improve sustainability and performance.
2. Providing and sustaining services to sporting organisations which have a high turnover and continuing unavailability of quality paid and volunteer staff.
3. Implementing and sustaining sport and recreation programs in remote communities with the high turnover of staff at local government shires and remote communities.
4. Engaging peak sporting organisation to support and deliver programs in remote communities.

Future Priorities in 2011–12: Sports Development

1. Implement the new Agency online Grants Management System to improve the delivery of the Sports Development grants program.
2. Align services and program delivery to the recently approved Territory Government's Sport Policy 1.
3. Continue to review Peak Sporting Bodies to ensure proper governance practices are being followed. Increase focus and provision of governance and management advice to sporting organisations and peak bodies.
4. Work with the Australian Sports Commission on increasing participation and inclusiveness in sporting organisations.
5. Work in partnership with a range of organisations to deliver sport and recreation initiatives as prescribed in the Working Future Local Implementation Plans for Growth Towns. The initiatives include developing a simpler, more streamlined approach to sport and recreation services and undertaking reviews of sporting infrastructure in at least 11 Territory Growth Towns.

Output: Northern Territory Institute of Sport

This Output provides integrated coaching and sport enhancement support services to talented Territory athletes that assist the achievements of success in sport and life. It also provides advice to sporting organisations that will support high performance strategies.

Performance Measures: Northern Territory Institute of Sport

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Estimate	10–11 Actual	11–12 Budget
NTIS athlete scholarship holders ¹	149	163	190	209 ²	120 ³
Major athlete coach service programs ⁴	9	9	9	9	9
Athletes achieving national squad or national league club representation ⁵	24	18	20	21 ⁶	15

Explanatory Notes to the Table

- Scholarship holders refer to the total number of athletes who were awarded a Northern Territory Institute of Sport (NTIS) squad or individual scholarship in 2010–11. Individual athlete scholarships are awarded to actual or potential Australian representatives who receive direct financial support and individual servicing. Squad scholarship holders are classified as either a Tier 1 athlete, who may be eligible for financial support and can access all available services on an individualised basis, or a Tier 2 athlete, who is not eligible for financial support and can access restricted services on a group education basis.
- It was anticipated that 190 athletes would be offered a NTIS scholarship in 2010–11 but the final number was actually 209. The higher than anticipated number is primarily a result of the sports identifying more development athletes for the program at the Tier 2 level.
- In 2011–12 the NTIS will be implementing a more robust scholarship framework, based on the new national Institutes of Sport scholarship

system, which will reduce athlete scholarship numbers for the year to no more than 120. Reducing the number of athlete scholarship holders allows the NTIS to refine its focus to devoting more resources to athletes with a genuine chance of progressing to high acclaim, rather than providing a high performance training environment experience to a large number of athletes.

- Programs provided to NTIS athletes and sports on an annual basis included: coaching, high performance management, sports medicine and physiotherapy, strength and conditioning, biomechanics and skill acquisition, physiology, psychology, career and education guidance, and nutrition.
- Athletes achieving national squad and national league club representation refers to NTIS athletes who were selected for national teams or squads (at junior or senior level) or signed contracts with teams in professional leagues; for example with the Australian Football League or National Rugby League.
- Athletes achieving national squad and national league representation in 2010–11 included:

Sport	Athlete	Representation
Australian Football	Zephania Skinner	Western Bulldogs Australian Football League Club
Hockey	Desmond Abbott	Australian Senior Men’s Team
	Joel Carroll	Australian Senior Men’s Team
	Elizabeth Duguid	Australian Senior Women’s Team
	Jeremey Hayward	Australian Youth Men’s Team
	Leon Hayward	Australian Senior Men’s Indoor and “A” Teams
	Heather Langham	Australian Senior Women’s Team
	Brooke Peris	Australian Junior Women’s Team
	Judo	Tamara Betts
Yachting	Mark Edmonds	Australian Youth Team
Rugby League	Jake Watts	Cronulla Sharks National Rugby League Club

Sport	Athlete	Representation
Swimming	Tahnee Afuhaamango	Australian World Down Syndrome International Swimming Organisation Championships Team
Tennis	Kassandra Dunser	Australian U15 Team
Tenpin Bowling	Natalie Shelley	Australia Senior Team
Wheelchair Basketball	Melanie Hall	Australian Senior Team
Weightlifting	Andre Mullins	Australian Junior and Youth Squads
	Jack Rau	Australian Youth Squad
Squash	Rhys Dowling	National Talent Squad
Cricket	Sarah Elliot	Australian Senior Team
	Julie Woerner	Australian Senior Squad
Touch	Jaylene Bonson	Australian Junior Squad

- The NTIS provides integrated coaching and sport enhancement support services to Territory athletes to assist them achieve success. The number of athletes achieving national squad or national league club representation is not an outcome the NTIS can control. These outcomes are achieved by a combination of athlete skill level and performance, NTIS support and national selection panels and league club recruitment staff. The estimate for 2011–12 reflects this and is a conservative approach due to the variables involved in achieving the outcome.

Key Achievements in 2010–11: Northern Territory Institute of Sport

- Development of a new NTIS athlete scholarship framework, based on recently developed National Elite Sports Council nomenclature. This will ensure greater consistency of scholarship provision across sports and provide robust assessment criteria to improve talent identification and selection processes.

- Further refinement of the individual athlete development planning process to improve the delivery of services and support tailored to the specific needs of each athlete on an Individual Athlete or Tier 1 Squad Scholarship.
- Development of a closer working relationship with Charles Darwin University to improve both employment opportunities for graduating students and service delivery for NTIS sport programs.
- Implementation of a coach development program incorporating video-taped competition and daily training environment sessions that are then critiqued by high performance management personnel and other NTIS coaches.

Challenges in 2010–11: Northern Territory Institute of Sport

- Improving the capacity of sports to suitably develop and support high performance athlete and coach development programs.
- Managing the higher than expected athlete scholarship numbers.

Future Priorities in 2011–12: Northern Territory Institute of Sport

- Assist sports to improve high performance athlete and coach development pathways and to manage their sport academy programs.
- Further develop the NTIS athlete database to ensure relevant information is captured, stored and utilised effectively and efficiently by all stakeholders.
- Strengthen the working relationship with Charles Darwin University to implement strategies that improve employment opportunities for graduating students and service delivery for NTIS sport programs.

Output: Facilities and Events

This output develops, maintains and manages key sporting facilities and provides support for national and international sporting events in the Territory.

Performance Measures: Facilities and Events

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Estimate	10–11 Actual	11–12 Budget
National and international events held in the Northern Territory	10	13	11	13 ¹	7 ²
Government-owned facilities leased to sporting and active recreation bodies	5	6	6	5 ³	11
Government-owned and managed sporting facilities	2	2	2	2 ⁴	2
Usage of Marrara Indoor Stadium	51%	60%	60%	50.3% ⁵	60%
Usage of Hidden Valley Motor Sports Complex	48%	58%	60%	49% ⁶	60%

Explanatory Notes to the Table

- National and international sporting events held in the Territory in 2010–11:
 - July 2010: Australian Football League Premiership season game – Western Bulldogs vs. Port Adelaide, Darwin;
 - August 2010: Twenty20 Top End Cricket Challenge – Queensland, Victoria and South Australia, Darwin;
 - September 2010: Pro Tour Australian Tennis Event, Darwin;
 - September 2010: Pro Tour Australian Tennis Event, Alice Springs;
 - October 2010: National Basketball League Tournament – All National Basketball League teams, Darwin and Alice Springs;
 - October 2010: International 7's Rugby Union Tournament, Darwin;
 - October 2010: Women's National Basketball League game – Perth Lynx vs. Sydney Uni Flames, Alice Springs;

- February 2011: Australian Rugby Union Pre Season match – CA Technologies Brumbies vs. Queensland Reds, Darwin;
- February 2011: National Rugby League Pre-season match – North Queensland Cowboys vs. Brisbane Broncos, Alice Springs;
- February 2011: Australian Football League NAB Cup Challenge game – Port Adelaide vs. Richmond, Alice Springs;
- February 2011: Imparja Cup Cricket Tournament, Alice Springs;
- May 2011: Australian Football League Premiership season game – Port Adelaide vs. Richmond, Darwin; and
- May 2011: Arafura Games, Darwin;

The Twenty20 Top End Cricket Challenge and the Arafura Games were events not forecast to be held in 2010–11, but eventuated and required holding.

- The decrease of events forecast for 2011–12 is attributed to the Arafura Games being a biennial event and will not be held in 2011–12. The International 7's Rugby Union Tournament was a one-off event. Reviews of the Women's National Basketball League, National Basketball League and Twenty20 Cricket events did not justify value for money agreements for the events held in 2010–11, and were not considered for 2011–12. The Darwin Pro Tour Tennis event was not an option for 2011–12 as the courts at the Darwin Tennis Centre do not meet the required match standard.

National and international sporting events scheduled to be held in the Territory 2011–12:

- Pan Hellenic Games in Darwin;
- Pro Tour Australian Professional Tennis Event in Alice Springs;
- Super 15s Rugby Union trial match featuring the CA Technology Brumbies;
- Australian Football League NAB Cup Challenge game in Alice Springs;

5. Australian Football League Premiership season game, May 2012;
 6. Australian Football League Premiership season game, July 2011; and
 7. National Rugby League Premiership match in Darwin.
3. Territory Government owned sporting facilities leased to sporting bodies are:
1. Larrakia Park, Darwin Football Stadium: Leased to the Football Federation Northern Territory;
 2. TIO Stadium: Leased to Australian Football League Northern Territory;
 3. Marrara Stadium Multipurpose Hall: Leased to the Judo Federation NT, Gymnastics NT, NT Table Tennis;
 4. Micket Creek Shooting Complex: Leased to the Northern Territory Firearms Council;
 5. Marrara Netball Complex: Leased to Netball Northern Territory; Arafura Stadium and MotorSports NT leases are under negotiation.
4. Territory Government owned and managed sporting facilities are:
- Marrara Indoor Stadium; and
 - Hidden Valley Motor Sports Complex.
5. This figure is calculated as a percentage of the total hours the facility is available for hire. Usage decreased due to the facility being unavailable for 91 days during its required upgrade as a Public Tropical Cyclone Shelter.
6. This figure is calculated as a percentage of the total hours the facility is utilised. Usage decreased due to the extended construction for the complex upgrades of the dragstrip. Construction commenced in July 2010 and was completed in April 2011 and severely limited club activities at the facility.

Key Achievements in 2010–11: Facilities and Events

1. Conducted the highly successful Arafura Games in May 2011. The Games is a week long, multi-sport international event held biennially in Darwin. The Games target developing athletes across the Asia Pacific region, consist of 20 sports and includes the Oceania Paralympic Championships. More than 2 200 competitors and 1 000 volunteers from more than 40 countries participated at this year's games.
2. Completed the \$7.57M upgrades to Hidden Valley Motor Sports Complex including:
 - The Drag Strip re-surfacing and new timing system and display boards, burnout pad and spectator seating;
 - A purpose built burn out pan and skid pan;
 - The Karts Track resurfacing and upgrades to car parking, pit areas and fencing; and
 - Extensive drainage and erosion repair works.

The Hidden Valley Drag Strip project won the engineering Earth Award at the Civil Contractors Awards in June 2011.

3. Completed the \$4.2M works to the Arafura Stadium Athletics Complex, which included:
 - Resurfacing of the athletics track;
 - Upgrade of the hammer circles;
 - Upgrade of throwing cage facility;
 - Upgrade of the high jump area; and
 - Upgrade of lighting and the upgrading and replacement of athletics equipment.

The project has been nominated for an Australian Institute of Project Management Achievement Award 2011.

4. Delivery of \$0.78M Minor New Works Program on Territory Government owned facilities including:
 - Cricket net installation at TIO Stadium, Darwin;
 - Certification works at TIO Stadium, Darwin;
 - Irrigation works at Larrakia Park Football Stadium, Darwin;
 - Upgrades to the change rooms at Arafura Athletics Stadium, Darwin;
 - Go Kart Track upgrades at Hidden Valley Motor Sports Complex, Darwin; and
 - Air conditioning compressor replacement at Marrara Indoor Stadium, Darwin.
5. Presented the first Australian Rugby Union Pre-season match in Darwin, as part of a three year agreement with CA Technologies Brumbies at AUSTAR Rugby Park on Saturday 5 February 2011. The Queensland Reds won the match in front of approximately 5 000 fans.
6. Oversaw the commencement of the construction of the Palmerston Water Park which includes a six lane water slide, play equipment and recreational areas, a kiosk, a soft fall water area and car parking and access areas.
7. Oversaw the commencement of the construction of the four Palmerston sporting facilities which includes significant upgrades to the existing Palmerston Magpies oval, new facilities for rugby league, new facilities for football and an upgrade of the tennis/netball facility.
8. Completed infrastructure upgrades at TIO Stadium, Darwin, including installation of new public address system.
9. Oversaw the completion of the new Alice Springs Aquatic Centre and upgrade to the Alice Springs Basketball Stadium in partnership with the Alice Springs Town Council in April 2011.

Challenges in 2010–11: Facilities and Events

1. Delivering the International events for Arafura Games with just eight months lead time consisting of 20 Sports including four paralympic sports, 2 200 competitors from 40 countries, and over 1 000 volunteers from over 40 countries.
2. Abandonment of the Australian Football League's Indigenous All-Stars match due to extraordinary weather conditions. The match, against Richmond, was scheduled to be played on 4 February 2011 at TIO Stadium but was relocated to Traeger Park Alice Springs due to the substantial rainfall Darwin had received. However, on 4 February 2011 the match was cancelled due to the impending Tropical Cyclone Yasi that was expected to pass over Alice Springs.
3. Coordinating and negotiating with service providers and stakeholder sporting organisations to complete large infrastructure projects on time and within budget.
4. Maintaining an effective ground maintenance program for Territory Government owned and leased facilities in unpredictable weather conditions.

Future Priorities in 2011–12: Facilities and Events

1. Develop and implement an integrated community development program arising from obligations incorporated into event agreements.
2. Oversee the completion of the Palmerston sporting facilities for AFL, rugby league, football, and tennis/netball facility. The tennis/netball and the football facilities are expected to be completed by December 2011. The AFL and rugby league sites are expected to be completed by February 2012.
3. Oversee the completion of the Palmerston Water Park facility, which is expected to be open to the public in early 2012.
4. Delivery of stage two of the Territory Government's three-year commitment to Fred's Pass Reserve for the upgrading of sports facility infrastructure by providing grants funding.
5. Monitoring of the grant and assistance to Squash NT in the construction of an international 12-court squash facility in Darwin.

GBD: Territory Wildlife Parks

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

This Government Business Division has a budget of \$9.94 million.

There are two Business Lines within this Government Business Division:

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

Business Line: Alice Springs Desert Park

The Alice Springs Desert Park provides a quality experience to visitors through the presentation of flora and fauna in a variety of natural Central Australian habitats and ecosystems Park including contributing to conservation outcomes by breeding threatened species.

Performance Measures Business Line: Alice Springs Desert Park

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Estimate	10–11 Actual	11–12 Budget
Visitors	74 702	77 295	63 500	63 270	63 500
Key new visitor experiences	2	5	4	5 ¹	4
Threatened species breeding programs	5	4	4	4 ²	4
Visitor satisfaction ³	96%	98%	95%	92%	95%

Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Key new visitor experiences included:
 - Opened the Red Centre Way West Macs Discovery Centre;
 - Redeveloped the Courtyard into a free of charge community space;
 - Provided monthly themed education programs to Central Australian school students;
 - Provided Toddler Time activities every second Wednesday; and
 - Commenced regular guided tours of the Desert Farm.
2. Four threatened species breeding programs were completed:
 - Bilby – animals held according to plan. There was no requirement to breed from these animals this year. They were nonetheless required to be held in captivity given their genetic value;
 - Red-tailed Phascogale – successfully bred 33 phascogales;
 - Mala – successfully bred six Mala; and
 - Stick-nest Rats – successfully bred 19 Stick-nest Rats.
3. Visitor satisfaction was measured through visitor surveys. Through much of the reporting period, there was construction in the entry (and exit) courtyard area as visitors first and last impressions are important.

Key Achievements in 2010–11: Alice Springs Desert Park

1. Provided themed free educational programs to 1 308 Central Australian school students. Activities included *Know your reptiles; desert art; desert farm; Arrernte language and culture*; that enabled children to learn about the environment and local Aboriginal culture with the key messages being sustainable conservation and social justice.
2. Provided Toddler Time programs to 304 Central Australian toddlers (and 175 adults). These hour long programs include craft activities, painting and sandpit play.
3. Hosted two Aboriginal Art night markets in partnership with DesArt attracting 1 093 visitors and generating substantial sales to art centres.
4. Developed and opened the Desert Farm which has given a space for the Park to develop opportunities for volunteers to work in arid zone gardening. This includes seed collection, propagation, planting and harvesting.
5. Opened a redeveloped courtyard in March 2011 so the public can enter this space without paying a fee. Since it has opened, the Park has hosted a music event and an art market, and the Park's concessionaires have hosted a large quiz night.
6. Continued developing a working relationship with Traditional Owners at Ipolera (south-west of Alice Springs) and have developed a draft Project Brief for the construction of a predator-proof fenced area and a breeding facility which will enable the reintroduction of Western Quoll (Chilpa) back onto country in the heart of the Chilpa Dreaming song-lines at Ipolera.
7. Forged a partnership with Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Education and Power Plants and commenced it as a public program in July 2011. Participants will spend time in Alice Springs developing skills, and then be supported within their community to create sustainable gardens.

Challenges in 2010–11: Alice Springs Desert Park

1. Decline in visitor numbers to Central Australia has resulted in a need to further increase ways in which the local community can work with the Park. This includes opportunities through the Culture Centre (language classes, cultural development) and through the Desert Farm (community gardens).
2. Continuing a strong emphasis on integrating planning and activities with regional and community developments.
3. Redeveloping the Exhibition Centre into The Red Centre Way West Macs Discovery Centre with minimal disturbance to the visitor experiences.

Future Priorities in 2011–12: Alice Springs Desert Park

1. Develop a plan that focuses on the aspirations of the Alice Springs community as articulated in *Territory 2030*. This includes cultural capacity, celebration of culture and country, role in biodiversity management, and supporting burgeoning Indigenous business.
2. Redevelopment of the Park's old entry station into a vibrant culture centre. This will be an intercultural and intra-cultural social learning space that will immerse visitors in Central Australian Indigenous worldviews, draw them into the Park and will leave them moved, connected and informed.
3. Establish a steering committee and commence raising the profile of and funds for the construction of a large fenced enclosure at Ipolera for the reintroduction of Western Quolls.
4. Increase profile of the Desert Farm and the conservation work and role of the Park through visitor activities and culinary events in partnership with the concessionaires and the Alice Desert Festival.
5. Creation of five community gardens through the Power Plants program.

Business Line: Territory Wildlife Park

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

Performance Measures Business Line: Territory Wildlife Park

Key Deliverables	08–09 Actual	09–10 Actual	10–11 Estimate	10–11 Actual	11–12 Budget
Visitors	69 073	64 500	62 000	59 500 ¹	63 000
Community groups involved	1	1	6	6 ²	10
Education providers involved	1	1	3	3 ³	4
Biodiversity conservation programs ⁴	2	9	3	3 ⁵	4
Visitor satisfaction	95%	95%	95%	93% ⁶	95%

Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Visitation has been affected by a downturn of 20 per cent in tourism numbers in August and September 2010. A long and very wet Wet season attributed to a significant drop in visitation to the Park during January 2011.
2. This is a new Key Deliverable. The Park is emphasising community involvement through working with a broad range of community groups. The only record of community group involvement for previous years is the Darwin Correctional Services Living Skills Unit teams. The number of visits to the Park through the Community Groups total 426.

Groups in this year’s program are:

- 1st Berrimah Scouts – 2 groups attended from this Scouts unit;
 - Top End Native Plant Society;
 - Inter-cruises Crystal Serenity Cruise Ship (A Volun-tourism Adventure);
 - Darwin Correctional Services Living Skills Unit teams;
 - Australian Defence Force Army 2nd Cavalry; and
 - Community Involvement Programmed Days – 15 days per annum with a maximum of 20 participants per day.
3. This is a new Key Deliverable in 2010–11 to recognise the growth of education providers using the Park as a venue to complement their curriculum. Providers in 2011 included:
 - Charles Darwin University (CDU) – Certificate IV and Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management;
 - Darwin High School – Year 10 special education held a supervised workplace experience over four, weekly visits; and
 - Taminmin High School – Certificate II Conservation and Land Management.
 4. This deliverable is the number of conservation programs the Park is involved in. It also includes threatened species breeding if a conservation outcome improved the likelihood for the survival of threatened species in the wild, not just at the Park.

5. Biodiversity conservation programs the Park was involved in were:
 1. Plight of the Flatback Turtle: This project is a joint collaboration between the Park, Charles Darwin University, Austurtle and Sea Darwin Turtle Tracks Tours to raise the plight of marine turtles in Northern Australia
 2. Plight of the Freshwater Sawfish. This is an ongoing display at the Park that raises issues surrounding the plight of the critically endangered Freshwater Sawfish, locally, nationally and internationally. It is a joint collaboration between the Park, the Territory Government's Department of Resources, Project Sawfish – Murdoch University, the MegaFishes project run by Dr Zeb Hogan Nebraska USA and National Geographic.
 3. Predation trials using native rats to measure responses to feral predator. This is a joint collaboration between Charles Darwin University, Australian Wildlife Conservatory and the Park.
6. Visitor satisfaction is measured through visitor surveys, number of complaints received and number of praise comments.

Key Achievements in 2010–11: Territory Wildlife Park

1. Established a Biodiversity Conservation Committee to bring together government, non government organisations, Traditional Custodians and the community to guide and have input into future conservation programs at the Park.
2. Established an Indigenous Development Officer role which facilitated consultation and collaboration with Traditional Custodians that is now resulting in the implementation of Indigenous culture throughout the Park in a manner that is appropriate, authentic and accurate. Indigenous employment has increased at the Park and Indigenous employees now represent 14.1 per cent of total staff numbers.
3. Formally recognised as a partner in the Territory Government's Territory Eco-link project that will link environmentally important land units from Central Australia through to the Top End.
4. Developed a range of recreational activities for the enjoyment of local Territorians in response to declining interstate and international visitors to the Northern Territory in 2010–11. These included:
 - A fun run in conjunction with the Darwin Runners and Walkers Club;
 - A youth disco during Youth Week 2011;
 - Free mini-golf during April 2011 School Holidays;
 - A choice of five free quiz booklets that incorporate Top End flora and fauna;
 - Two free Movie Nights in the Picnic Area – Movies 'Up' and 'Twilight' were shown; and
 - Three Toad Busts – free evening events where community members collect cane toads in various areas of the Park.
5. Conducted a teacher orientation to the Park using a program called 'Wild Maths' to encourage use of the Park by schools to compliment school curricula.

6. Conducted new activities and presentations that included:
 - Nardukool: An Ancient Wetland – an interactive cultural presentation at Goose Lagoon;
 - Wild Discovery Presentations – interactive presentations based on Top End flora and fauna, offered twice daily in busy periods; and
 - Extending opening hours over Easter so that the Park was open til 8:30 pm. The Park offered new night time activities throughout this period including a dusk feeding presentation at the Billabong, a new Birds of Prey presentation and interpretive talks at the Nocturnal House.

Challenges in 2010–11: Territory Wildlife Park

1. Addressing the continuing decline in interstate and international visitors impacted by a slow recovery from the global financial crisis and a strong Australian dollar.
2. Dealing with damaged infrastructure and further reduced visitor numbers caused by major flooding during the Wet season.
3. Assuming the responsibility for operating the café and souvenir shop following the dissolution of the contract held by the previous concessionaires.

Future Priorities in 2011–12: Territory Wildlife Park

1. Successful completion of the \$1.9M major repairs and maintenance program at the Park. This will allow major upgrades to aging facilities such as the Monsoon Forest and Aquarium and will also involve a major investment in the current interpretation around the park.
2. Increase the focus on Indigenous cultural tourism at the Park by facilitating the development of at least one Indigenous tourism business.